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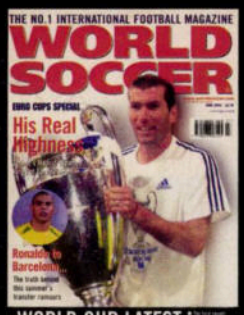

WORLD CUP LATEST

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June 2002

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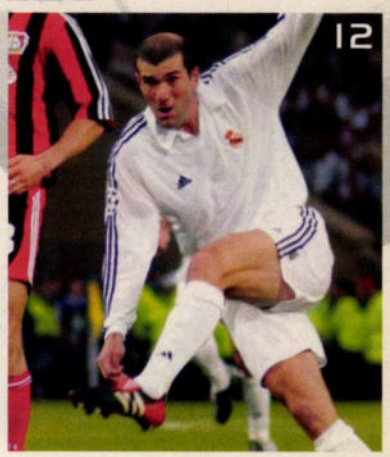

COVER STORY Champions League Final
Real Madrid capture a record-extending ninth European Cup at Hampden Park, Glasgow. *Pages* 12-17

World Cup update
Latest news from all the finalists. *Pages* 20-27

INSIDE SOCCER special report
Football's financial crisis. *Pages* 32-38

UEFA Cup Final
Feyenoord triumph on home soil. *Pages* 56-57

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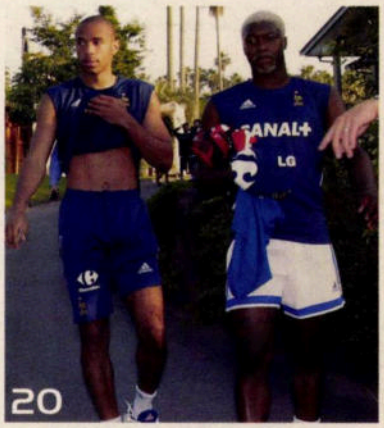


I DON'T WANT to be accused of pooping anyone's World Cup party, but there's no time like the present to consider the financial crisis facing soccer – the world game. Sponsors may be falling over themselves to jump on the World Cup bandwagon, but away from the four-week festival of football, the debt collectors are moving in. As our report (starting on page 32) chronicles, 2001-02 was the season when football's bubble burst, not just in the UK with the collapse of ITV Digital, but across the globe. It's a global problem – and it requires a global solution.

The final few days of the countdown to the World Cup were dominated by news of injuries that, sadly, have deprived the tournament of some of its best players. We bring you news of who made it and who didn't, starting on page 20, and publish the official World Cup squads in World Service.

Fortunately, amid the doom and gloom, football produces sublime moments such as Zinedine Zidane's wonderful goal at Hampden to remind us why we are all here in the first place.

Next month, we'll bring you the full story of how the 2002 World Cup was won and lost. See you then.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor (gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com)

● 02/04/02...Bayern fight back to beat Real Madrid 2-1 in the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final

● 05/04/02...coach Fabio Capello extends his contract with Roma

● 07/04/02...Parma beat Udinese 2-0 as the Italian League enters its final phase

● 09/04/02...United Arab Emirates appoi Roy Hodgson as their new coach

Europe's most wanted

Nick Bidwell and Gavin Hamilton on the big names likely to feature in this summer's transfer market

Marcio Amoroso
The Brazilian topped the Bundesliga scoring charts last season and his club, Dortmund, won the League title; but he has never settled in Germany and has often clashed with coach Matthias Sammer. He would jump at the chance to head for Italy or Spain.

Patrik Berger
The Czech midfielder could be shown the door by Liverpool as Gerard Houllier raises cash for signings.

Fabio Cannavaro
The Parma centre-back is the most wanted defender in Italy, with Juventus the most likely destination.

Manchester target...Lilian Thuram

Cristian Chivu
Ajax hope to hang on to their young Romanian skipper; Internazionale, Milan and Barcelona have other plans for the left-back or central defender.

Djibril Cisse
While the young French goalscoring sensation says he is happy at Auxerre, Liverpool, Bayern Munich and a number of big-name Serie A clubs are hopeful of prising him away.

Francesco Coco
The Italy defender is returning to Milan after a season on loan at Barcelona.

Hernan Crespo
A victim of the Lazio clearout. His favoured destination is Barça or Real Madrid depending on who you believe.

Deco
Departure to Fulham or Celta Vigo looks imminent for FC Porto's Brazilian midfielder.

Edmilson
Both Barcelona and Bayern Munich have been running the rule over Lyon's classy Brazilian centre-back.

Eriberto
One of Chievo's stars last term and now a target for bigger Italian clubs.

Marcelo Gallardo
After a spat with Monaco coach Didier Deschamps, the Argentinian midfield general should soon be off to Lyon, Marseille, a northern Italian side or any Spanish team with high ambitions.

Hugo Viana
The young midfielder only broke into the Sporting Lisbon side last season but Valencia, Celta Vigo and Deportivo La Coruna are already on the hunt.

Valerien Ismael
The Lens central defender was one of the most impressive players in France last season. Suitors from his own country as well as Werder Bremen and Deportivo are on the watch.

Mario Jardel
A prolific scorer in Portugal and Turkey, but the Brazilian striker has never quite gained the respect he feels he is due. He may be tempted to quit Sporting Lisbon for a higher quality league. Valencia and Parma lead the chasers.

Patrick Kluivert
A move to the Premiership, where the Barça striker has many admirers, would be no earth-shattering event. Also still popular with Serie A recruiters despite an unhappy time at Milan (1997-98).

Mickael Landreau
The French Under-21 keeper could leave Nantes for Lazio or Bordeaux, to replace Barcelona-bound Ulrich Rame.

Lucio
A revelation in the Champions League for Leverkusen, the leggy Brazilian centre-back combines fearsome defending with electrifying attacking sorties, and has a price-tag to match – £20-25 million. However, the clubs are queuing up – Barcelona, Real Madrid, plus the usual suspects from Italy.

Exit fears...Fernando Morientes

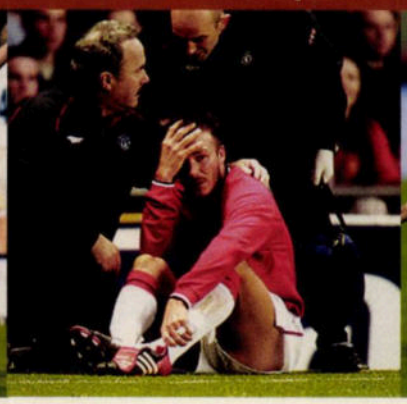
Clint Mathis
Up-and-coming MetroStars and USA front-runner being chased by Bayern Munich and Perugia.

Gaizka Mendieta
Heading back to Spain after a miserable season at Lazio, with Atletico Madrid the most likely destination.

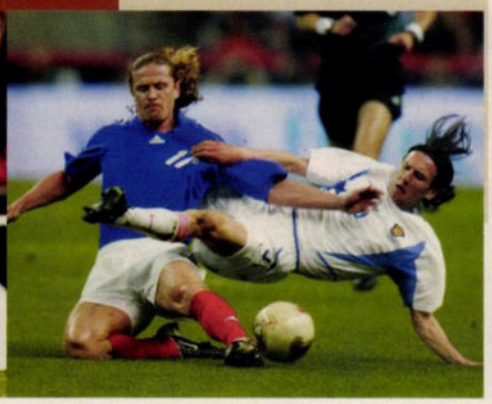
Fernando Morientes
The Real Madrid striker believes he is being shunted to the Bernabeu exit. Not that Roma's Fabio Capello, a former Real boss himself, is unhappy with the situation. He is keen to bring Morientes to the Italian capital.

The month in pictures

● 09/04/02...Leverkusen celebrate reaching the Champions League semi-finals after beating Liverpool



● 10/04/02...David Beckham faces a seven-week lay-off after a challenge from Deportivo La Coruna's Aldo Duscher



● 17/04/02...France are held to a goalless draw by Russia at Stade de France

Alessandro Nesta
Lazio's debts may force the sale of their best player. Real Madrid and Manchester United head the queue.

Austin Okocha
Chelsea and Tottenham are rumoured to be tailing Paris Saint-Germain's Nigerian playmaker, though he would not be averse to a move to the Bundesliga, where he used to star for Eintracht Frankfurt.

Pauleta
The Portuguese marksman does not think Bordeaux are ambitious enough and is almost certain to cash in on his French top goalscoring title with a lucrative move. Premiership clubs have been sniffing around, but Lyon are reported to be in pole position.

Kevin Phillips
Tipped for a return south from Sunderland, with Tottenham the forward's preferred destination.

Jose Reyes
Promising young Sevilla midfielder who has the eyes of Arsenal, Real Madrid and Barcelona trained on him.

Rivaldo
May be tempted to leave Barcelona for Italy. If Lazio cannot lure back old favourite Veron but can raise cash with some big-name sales, they may turn to the Brazilian. The more likely destination is Milan, where vice-president Adriano Galliani is a big fan. Rivaldo's arrival would sweeten the pill if Andrii Shevchenko goes to Real Madrid.

Roberto Carlos
Inter president Massimo Moratti never stops repeating his desire to see the Brazilian back in Milan. But can he persuade him to leave Real Madrid?

Ronaldo
Inter coach Hector Cuper is less than convinced by Ronaldo's phased return to fitness, and the Brazilian is said to be unhappy at earning less than team-mates Christian Vieri and Alvaro Recoba. He has so far dodged Spanish press talk that Louis Van Gaal wants to bring him back to the Catalan capital.

Rui Costa
The Portuguese playmaker's place at Milan is under pressure from local boy Andrea Pirlo, and he may be sold off to ease the club's mounting debts.

Andrii Shevchenko
Milan's Ukrainian forward is a long-time target of Real Madrid, who plan to boost their firepower.

Diego Simeone
A return to Atletico Madrid is on the cards for the Argentinian midfielder as Lazio clear the decks.

Wesley Sonck
The prolific Genk forward is wanted by many Premiership clubs. His bustling style would make him suited to England.

Rigobert Song
On loan from West Ham to relegated Germans Koln last season, the Cameroon skipper may be en route for Bayern or French runners-up Lens.

Lilian Thuram
A long-term target for Manchester United. Juventus may be prepared to do business if they can bag Cannavaro from Parma.

Mark Van Bommel
The PSV midfielder and skipper has long been linked with Arsenal and Lazio. But Van Gaal could yet take him to Camp Nou.

Juan Sebastian Veron
Talented playmaker but a source of great tactical angst for Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson. Lazio would love to take him back to Rome.

Rumblings of discontent...Ronaldo

NOTES AND QUOTES

"Roby, play for us."
An advertising campaign for Italian airline Alitalia featuring Roberto Baggio, who was left out of the country's World Cup squad despite widespread public clamour for his inclusion.

"In Rome we all lost our heads, me included."
A mea culpa *from Internazionale coach Hector Cuper after his team threw away the Italian title with a final-day defeat at Lazio.*

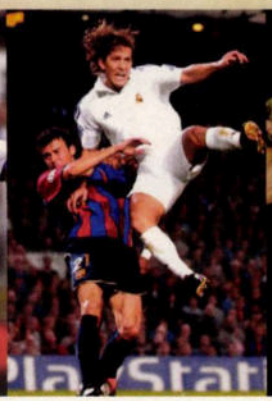
Player power...Jocelyn Angloma

"Benitez has been praised for leading us to the top. But in reality the people who did it are players like Canizares, Carboni, Djukic and Ayala."
Valencia full-back Jocelyn Angloma plays down the role of coach Rafa Benitez in the club's Spanish League triumph.

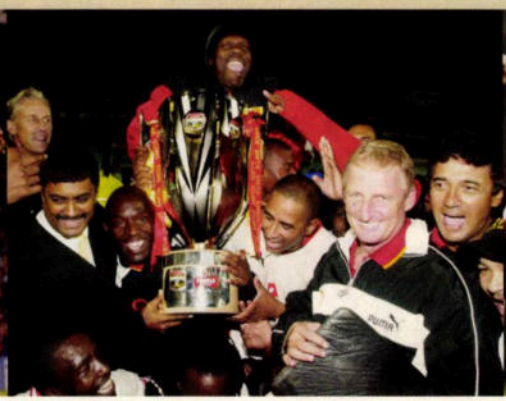
"While the media defended Fernando Couto, they didn't give me the same treatment."
Former Portugal No 2 keeper Quim completes a three-month ban for supposedly taking nandrolone, but is left out of the World Cup squad.

"It's £100,000 per man for winning the World Cup, and that's all. I'm not interested in discussion."
Brazilian federation chief Ricardo Teixeira on rumours that Selecao *players wanted more.*

● 21/04/02...Valencia edge towards the Spanish title with a 1-0 win over Deportivo La Coruna



● 23/04/02...Real Madrid beat Barcelona 2-0 in their Champions League semi-final first leg



● 25/04/02...Santos celebrate clinching the League title in South Africa

● 30/04/02...Bayer Leverkusen celebrate beating Man United to reach their first Champions League Final

Pele
OPINION

A tournament of two halves

France, Brazil and Argentina will all progress from the toughest side of the draw

THE World Cup seeding system is like the Wimbledon tennis tournament – except that the 2002 finals look a little unbalanced. Powerful nations such as France, Argentina, England and Brazil are all in the same 'half' of the draw. That makes it easier for countries in the other 'half' such as Spain, Portugal, Germany and Italy. The weaker side of the draw is made up of Groups B, D, E and G.

Group B really should be won by Spain, but I have been expecting a great World Cup from them for a long time and they have always let me down. This time, though, it's hard to believe they will blunder again, especially with the extra confidence earned by Real Madrid's victory in the Champions League. Players like Fernando Hierro, Ivan Helguera and Raul provide a superb backbone.

One of the surprise teams in the finals could be Portugal in Group D, but I am not certain what to expect from Luis Figo, who is the key to their goalscoring potential. He has been carrying an ankle injury which is why he was far from his best at the end of the European season for Real Madrid. I doubt he will have the rest he needs before the World Cup starts.

South Korea will have a lot of support as co-hosts and it is time that, in their fifth successive finals, they got beyond the first round. They will never have a better chance.

Group E is open. Germany will be favourites but they have slipped a long way over the past four years and I do not see enough outstanding new young players coming through. I have been waiting for Cameroon to fulfil their potential ever since they reached the quarter-finals back in 1990. Perhaps this is their moment.

> 'Every team with ambitions to lift the World Cup *must* win their first match; morale is damaged by defeat, possibly fatally'

In Group G I do not need to look beyond Italy. They have won the World Cup three times, which speaks for itself. I am also a great admirer of Francesco Totti, and the addition of his attacking flair to their traditional discipline and organisation presents an intimidating mixture.

Now for the tougher groups.

France should not only win Group A but possibly win the World Cup itself. They have much the same team as four years ago but with a much better attack now that Thierry Henry and David Trezeguet have 'grown up'. Also, Zinedine Zidane is the world's No 1 individual. His winning goal for Real Madrid in the Champions League Final was thrilling.

Second place depends on the outcome of the match between Denmark and Uruguay. I hold out little hope, I am afraid, for Senegal.

Group C should not present any problems for Brazil, particularly bearing in mind that this will be a different Brazil from the one who struggled in qualifying. I also know that Ronaldo, now that he is fit again, is focused on making amends for the disappointments in France.

Group F has been called the 'Group of Death', understandably. Argentina are one of my favourites to win the Cup because they have so many dangerous goalscorers – such as Hernan Crespo and Gabriel Batistuta.

England have lost their last two World Cup ties against Argentina, so perhaps this year will be third time lucky. It is a concern, however, that they put so much faith in Michael Owen and David Beckham, who have both had recent injury problems.

Finally, co-hosts Japan should qualify from Group H along with Belgium or Russia. Belgium have been hit hard by injuries, while Russia rarely play to their potential at World Cups.

There is one lesson everyone should note from World Cup history: every team with Cup-winning ambitions MUST win their first match. Victory may depend on a lucky bounce or an own goal. That is not as important as the confidence that springs from taking all three points. Defeat provokes an utterly negative reaction; morale is damaged, possibly fatally.

In the 16 previous World Cups, no team that LOST their first game have gone on to win the Final. On 14 occasions, the side who finished by raising the Cup won their opening match.

In the top half of the draw I can see France winning their opener against Senegal, Brazil beating Turkey and Argentina defeating Nigeria – and all going a long way. In the other half, I believe Italy will defeat Ecuador and Spain will beat Slovenia, and they will make significant progress.

After that, anything can happen.

Pele, World Cup spokesman for sponsor MasterCard, was talking to Keir Radnedge

The month in pictures

● 01/05/02...A car bomb explodes outside Madrid's Bernabeu stadium before Real's Champions League semi-final second leg against Barcelona

● 05/05/02...Inter lose the Italian title to Juventus on the last day of the season

● 07/05/02...Veteran striker Claudio Caniggia is included in Argentina's World Cup squad

One of the greatest

Keir Radnedge pays tribute to Ladislav Kubala

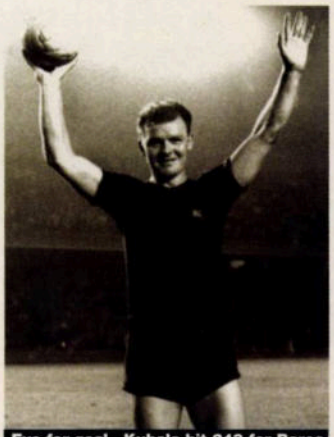
MOST British fans would doubtless vote George Best as the greatest player never to go to a World Cup finals. Argentinians might vote for Jose Manuel Moreno and Spaniards for Alfredo Di Stefano (he did go to the 1962 finals but did not play because of injury).

Many might vote, instead, for Ladislav Kubala, who died in May aged 74. Not so long ago Kubala was voted by Catalan fans as the greatest player in the history of Barcelona, ahead of Diego Maradona and Johan Cruyff, which hints at his brilliance.

Kubala had an amazing career. He was born and brought up in Hungary but his mother's family came from Czechoslovakia and, after his father's death in 1945, he went there to play for Bratislava. Kubala even scored six goals in six games for Czechoslovakia before returning to Budapest – and playing three times for Hungary.

He had great technique and strength, and was also probably the first European player to bend free-kicks over or around a wall. It is fascinating to think the Magical Magyars of Ferenc Puskas might have been enhanced by Kubala's talents. But he hated the implications of the Communist takeover and fled to the West in 1948.

Kubala made straight for Italy, where he teamed up with father-in-law Ferdinand Daucik (a pre-war Czech international). They founded a team of emigres, called themselves Hungaria, and arranged a lucrative series of



Eye for goal...Kubala hit 243 for Barça

friendly matches to make some money while their future was resolved.

Torino and Pro Patria wanted to sign Kubala, but FIFA, under pressure from the Hungarian federation, vetoed those proposed deals. That was when Barcelona stepped in. Kubala scored 243 goals in 329 games, inspiring the Catalans to four League titles, six Spanish Cups and two Fairs Cups.

Kubala then became player-coach of Espanyol and also coached Elche, Murcia, Cordoba, Malaga, Barcelona briefly, and the Spanish national team. In 1992, he steered the Spaniards to Olympic gold in Barcelona.

As Luis Suarez, his Barça team-mate, said: "It was because of the size of the crowds who wanted to see Kubala that the club had to build Camp Nou. That's the measure of his greatness."

CNN WORLD SOCCER CLUB OF THE MONTH POLL

● REAL MADRID ended up as the world's top club in the poll organised regularly by *World Soccer* in conjunction with CNN. The European champions came roaring back up the field in the last few weeks of the season by virtue of their Champions League successes against Barcelona in the semi-finals and then Bayer Leverkusen in the Final.

Arsenal's magnificent Double-winning achievement in England earned Arsene Wenger's men second place, with Leverkusen, triple runners-up, third overall. Top-placed South American club were Corinthians of Brazil.

The changing balance of the poll is the subject of weekly updates during the season by CNN Sports.

FINAL 2001-02 TABLE

1 REAL MADRID
2 ARSENAL
3 BAYER LEVERKUSEN
4 VALENCIA
5 JUVENTUS
6 CORINTHIANS
7 BORUSSIA DORTMUND
8 LIVERPOOL
9 FEYENOORD
10 RIVER PLATE

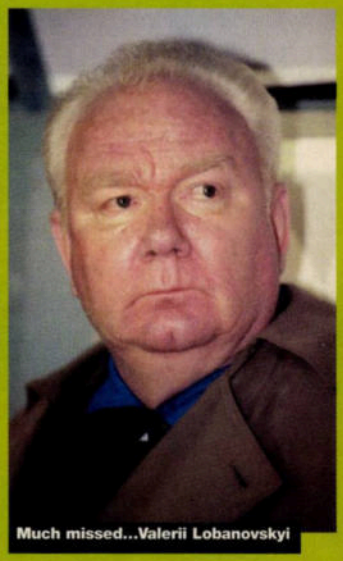
NOTES AND QUOTES

"If I was 38 and in his shoes, I'd refuse to go and let someone younger have a chance."
A bitter Lokomotiv Moscow keeper Sergei Ovchinnikov following his omission from Russia's World Cup squad in favour of veteran Stanislav Cherchesov.

"When I saw re-runs of the incident on TV, I realised I had made an enormous error."
Assistant referee Ronald Kloeg offers his apologies to Utrecht after failing to spot that Wamberto's late equaliser in the Dutch Cup Final was offside. Ajax went on to win with a golden goal.

"Those who say we choked don't know anything about football. Who got past Barcelona, Deportivo, Juventus, Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United? It was the 'losers' from Leverkusen."
Coach Klaus Toppmoller highlights his side's excellent run in this season's Champions League.

"He was like a father and a teacher."
Andrii Shevchenko pays tribute to the late, great Ukraine and Kyiv Dynamo coach Valerii Lobanovskyi.



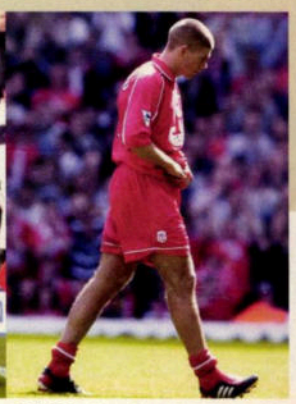
Much missed...Valerii Lobanovskyi

The month in pictures

● 08/05/02…Arsenal win the Premiership title after beating Manchester United 1-0 at Old Trafford

● 08/05/02…Louis Van Gaal is to return as coach of Barcelona

● 11/05/02…Kieron Dyer could miss the World Cup after being carried off on a stretcher following a foul by Southampton defender Taher El Khalej



● 14/05/02…Steven Gerrard will definitely miss the World Cup with a groin injury

ESM EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES GOLDEN SHOE

Jardel wins 2001-02 Golden Shoe

Mario Jardel, the Sporting Lisbon striker, has won the ESM Golden Shoe for 2001-02 after scoring 42 goals to help his side win the Portuguese League. It is the third time that the Brazilian has won the prestigious award, which is organised by ESM (European Sports Magazines) in association with UEFA. Jardel was previously a winner in 1998 and 1999 while with FC Porto. He will be presented with his trophy at a ceremony at the UEFA gala in Monaco in late August.

pos	name	club (country)	goals (factor)	points
1	Mario Jardel	Sporting Lisbon (Por)	42 (1.5)	63
2	Thierry Henry	Arsenal (Eng)	24 (2)	48
	Dario Hubner	Piacenza (Ita)	24 (2)	48
	David Trezeguet	Juventus (Ita)	24 (2)	48
5	Marc Lloyd-Williams	Bangor City (Wal)	47 (1)	47
6	Jimmy Hasselbaink	Chelsea (Eng)	23 (2)	46
	Alan Shearer	Newcastle (Eng)	23 (2)	46
	Ruud Van Nistelrooy	Manchester Utd (Eng)	23 (2)	46
9	Wesley Sonck	Genk (Blg)	30 (1.5)	45
10	Djibril Cisse	Auxerre (Fra)	22 (2)	44
	Pauleta	Bordeaux (Fra)	22 (2)	44
	Christian Vieri	Internazionale (Ita)	22 (2)	44
13	Henrik Larsson	Celtic (Sco)	29 (1.5)	43.5
14	Diego Tristan	Dep La Coruna (Spa)	21 (2)	42
	Christian Gimenez	Lugano/Basle (Swi)	28 (1.5)	42
	Ricardo Nunez	Grasshopper (Swi)	28 (1.5)	42
17	Ronald Brunmayr	Grazer AK (Aut)	27 (1.5)	40.5
18	Marco Di Vaio	Parma (Ita)	20 (2)	40
19	Jean-Claude Darcheville	Lorient (Fra)	19 (2)	38
	Michael Owen	Liverpool (Eng)	19 (2)	38
21	Paul Kpaka	Germinal Beerschot (Blg)	25 (1.5)	37.5
22	Maksim Gruznov	Trans Narva (Est)	37 (1)	37
23	Marcio Amoroso	Dortmund (Ger)	18 (2)	36
	Patrick Kluivert	Barcelona (Spa)	18 (2)	36
	Filippo Maniero	Venezia (Ita)	18 (2)	36
	Martin Max	1860 Munich (Ger)	18 (2)	36
	Fernando Morientes	Real Madrid (Spa)	18 (2)	36
	Pierre Van Hooijdonk	Feyenoord (Hol)	24 (1.5)	36

ESM EUROPEAN SPORTS MAGAZINES ELEVEN

TEAM OF THE MONTH - APRIL 2002

HOW THEY LINE UP

Seaman (Arsenal, 2 votes); Cordoba (Internazionale, 3), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen, 5), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid, 4); Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen, 7), Baraja (Valencia, 4), Zidane (Real Madrid, 6), Ljungberg (Arsenal, 4); Trezeguet (Juventus, 4), Ronaldo (Internazionale, 5), Saviola (Barcelona, 3)

DON BALON (Spa)

Butt (Bayer Leverkusen); Cordoba (Internazionale), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen), Panucci (Roma); Ljungberg (Arsenal), Baraja (Valencia), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Nedved (Juventus); Ronaldo (Internazionale), Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund), Jardel (Sporting Lisbon)

FOOT (Blg)

Buffon (Juventus); Ayala (Valencia), Campbell (Arsenal), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Zidane (Real Madrid), Bergkamp (Arsenal), Max (1860 Munich); Ronaldo (Internazionale), Pauleta (Bordeaux), Trezeguet (Juventus)

KICKER (Ger)

Canizares (Valencia); Emerton (Feyenoord), Cordoba (Internazionale), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Baraja (Valencia), Zidane (Real Madrid), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Ljungberg (Arsenal); Solskjaer (Manchester United), Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund)

A BOLA (Por)

Cesar (Real Madrid); Cafu (Roma), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen), Metzelder (Borussia Dortmund), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Ljungberg (Arsenal), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Baraja (Valencia), Zidane (Real Madrid); Saviola (Barcelona), Ronaldo (Internazionale)

VOETBAL INTERNATIONAL (Hol)

Seaman (Arsenal); Panucci (Roma), Cordoba (Internazionale), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Schneider (Bayer Leverkusen), Ljungberg (Arsenal), Baraja (Valencia), Zidane (Real Madrid); Saviola (Barcelona), Ronaldo (Internazionale), Trezeguet (Juventus)

WORLD SOCCER (UK)

Butt (Bayer Leverkusen); Angloma (Valencia), Ivan Helguera (Real Madrid), Blanc (Manchester United), Placente (Bayer Leverkusen); Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Ljungberg (Arsenal), Zidane (Real Madrid), Solari (Real Madrid); Diego Tristan (Deportivo La Coruna), Trezeguet (Juventus)

SPORT EXPRESS (Rus)

Buffon (Juventus); Panucci (Roma), Ayala (Valencia), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen), Roberto Carlos (Real Madrid); Jesuli (Celta Vigo), Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Butt (Manchester United); Saviola (Barcelona), Shearer (Newcastle), Ronaldo (Internazionale)

LA GAZZETTA DELLO SPORT (Ita)

Seaman (Arsenal); Luis Enrique (Barcelona), Lucio (Bayer Leverkusen), Campbell (Arsenal), Riise (Liverpool); Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen), Keane (Manchester United), Zidane (Real Madrid), Ze Roberto (Bayer Leverkusen); Trezeguet (Juventus), Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund)

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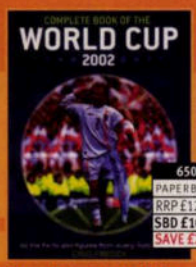

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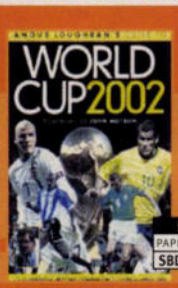

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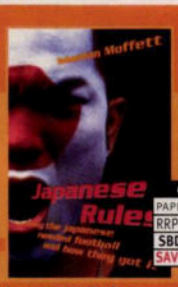

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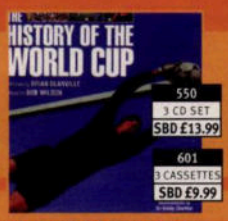

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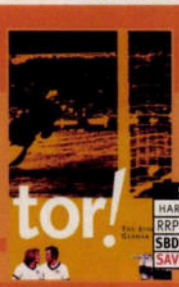

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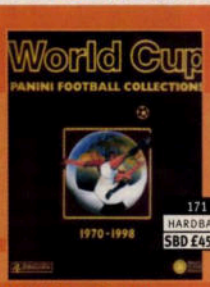

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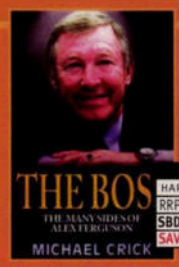

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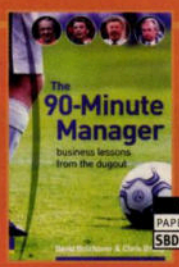

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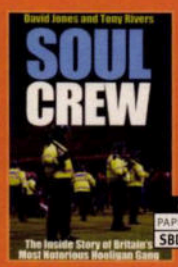

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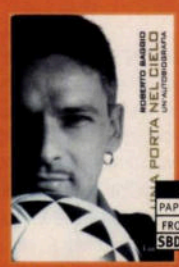

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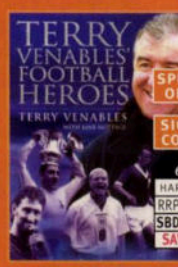

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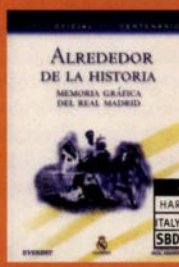

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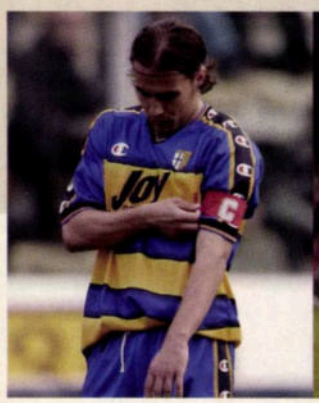
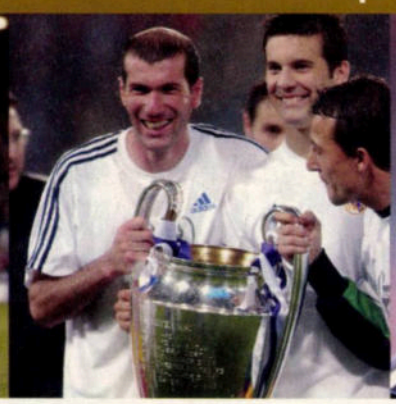
The month in pictures

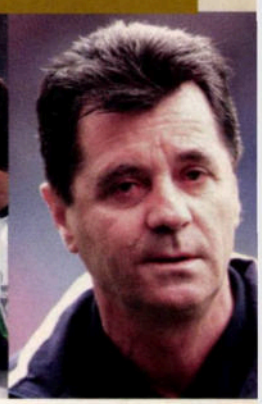


● 14/05/02...Italy defender Fabio Cannavaro hands in an official transfer request to Parma

● 14/05/02...Germany coach Rudi Voller is furious after his side lose 1-0 in a friendly against Wales



● 15/05/02...Real Madrid win the European Cup for a record-extending ninth time



● 17/05/02...Croatia coach Mirko Jozic announces his intention to stand down after the World Cup

Paul Gardner

GLOBAL VIEW

Let's talk about sex

WE'VE been promised ever more rigorous drug testing at the 2002 World Cup. As the list of banned substances gets longer and longer, the chance increases of a player innocently ingesting one of them in some medicine or other (cold and hay fever remedies seem to be the favourite scapegoats).

But I have to report that there is one important performance-enhancing drug that is not to be found in any household remedies. That doesn't matter too much, as sildenafilcitrate isn't on the banned list.

Maybe it should be, but I'm totally confused about this because opinion among football experts – mostly coaches – is anything but unanimous. Some view the effects of the drug with fear and trembling, others merely shrug and turn their backs. You will be more familiar with sildenafilcitrate under its proprietary name of Viagra.

Yes, we're talking about sex – a topic with which coaches have a lot of problems. Not personal problems, of course, but problems in deciding whether sex is good for their players or not. After all, is it unreasonable to imagine that having sex before games might sap a player's strength to the point where on-the-field performance suffers?

I wouldn't have thought so – but from the pro-active side comes the not-unreasonable argument that enforced abstention from what are sometimes known as 'family pleasures' might cause all sorts of stresses and strains which would also screw up a player's game.

I can't be too severe on the coaches in this matter, for the fact is that very little has been published on the relationship between sexual and athletic activity. We simply don't know, have no proof, whether having sex the night before a game hurts athletic performance – or even if it actually helps.

'Freddie Ljungberg thought Sweden coach Tommy Soderberg was right to ban sex before Euro 2000. Sweden finished bottom of their group'

Admittedly, this would not be an easy thing to test – if only because the performance of footballers varies so much, and anyway has a lot to do with the performance of the opposition.

In the absence of scientific evidence, we're really in a medieval situation where superstition and old wives' tales (they don't seem appropriate, somehow, but I'm sure you understand) dominate our thinking.

An interesting example of primordial thinking on sexual matters comes from the Italian coach Carlo Mazzone, who believes sex is not good before a game "because of the various toxins that the body has to absorb". Toxins, I should add, that have never been identified by anyone.

Roy Hodgson evidently believes in the weakening effects of sex. Before USA 94, he imposed a sex ban on his Switzerland team, saying he wanted his players concentrating on football "with all their strength".

Another Italian coach, Renzo Ulivieri, told his Cagliari players in 2000 that, to avoid relegation, "we're going to have to lead a monastic life for the next four months. I've already told the players that from now on they've got to restrain themselves".

Cagliari were duly relegated, so either a sex ban doesn't work, or no one listens. "The height of silliness" was Graeme Souness' opinion, but even his rejection of the ban was not total, for he added "but before a match I won't put a lot of energy into it."

Good point. One of the few 'expert' comments I've read on this matter came some years back from a Canadian psychology professor who announced that "sore and even pulled muscles after sexual activity are common...sweating, breathlessness, unflexing and repetition are all part of the process".

But if Freddie Ljungberg has got it right, 'the process' could be disastrous for footballers; he found that: "After having sex the night before a match, I lose all feelings in my feet." So he thought the Sweden coach Tommy Soderberg was doing right in banning sex before Euro 2000. Sweden didn't win a game and finished bottom of their group.

Of course, one supposedly secure way of defeating the lure of sex is to seal the team up in a camp miles from anywhere. That doesn't work either. A couple of years back Uganda's coach Harrison Okagbue complained: "The players think about women more than football. That's why they always escape from camp and return in the morning."

Brazilian defender Luis Pereira had the last word before the 1974 World Cup, when he complained to a journalist about the team's isolated training camp: "This is supposed to make us champions. Of what? Masturbation?"

As for World Cup 2002, Giovanni Trapattoni has banned sex for the Italians during the first round, the Croatians have been warned to renounce the pleasures of family life, the Poles can bring their wives or partners along but they'll have to pay all their expenses.

The French have let it be known players' wives had an important role in the 1998 victory, so they want them around again this year. Team doctor Jean-Marcel Ferret says: "Bringing wives or friends to an event like this is not only good – it's crucial."

None of this is likely to be included in the 2002 FIFA Technical Report, but maybe it should be. It would be useful to know – if only from the coaching point of view – if sex is good, or bad, for soccer.

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ITALIAN SPORT DESIGN

A class apart

Zidane's wonder goal seals Madrid's date with destiny. Keir Radnedge reports from Hampden Park, Glasgow

FOR any football romantic who honours the game's traditions and appreciates that worldwide magic, it could not get any better than this.

Not only did Real Madrid's world record signing, Zinedine Zidane, score the most magnificent winning goal, but also victory was saved by a no-cost, hometown kid of a substitute, Iker Casillas, who not only accomplished the most incredible triple-save sequence but did so a full four minutes into added time.

The outcome was to secure for the world's greatest club a record-extending ninth European Cup – never mind that Champions League marketing label – as a glittering climax to their centenary season.

Coincidentally, it also provided Zidane with his first Champions League winner's medal.

No wonder the Spanish-language stadium announcer broke into a toneless 'happy birthday', no wonder Madrid's celebrating players leapt the advertising barrier that usually keeps the heroes a respectful distance from their hero-worshippers.

Organisers brought out umbrellas to shield UEFA president Lennart Johansson and chief executive Gerd Aigner from the rain, but the only significant downpour was a billion white and blue paper petals, along with the fireworks, as the 'Hala Madrid' anthem roared out.

That, of course, was not all. Such an achievement in such a manner had been accomplished in the very Hampden Park where Madrid first laid claim to legendary status all the way back in 1960 with the 7-3 trouncing of Eintracht Frankfurt. Yet again, how coincidences flooded the occasion, the victims were German. Leverkusen might be forgiven a complaint that everything conspired against them – from the opponents on such an occasion to the suspension that denied them the creative services of Ze Roberto and the ligament injury that sidelined skipper and defensive anchor Jens Nowotny.

But for all their passion and remarkable morale, they lacked the highest level of individual talent – to which, ultimately, they had to succumb.

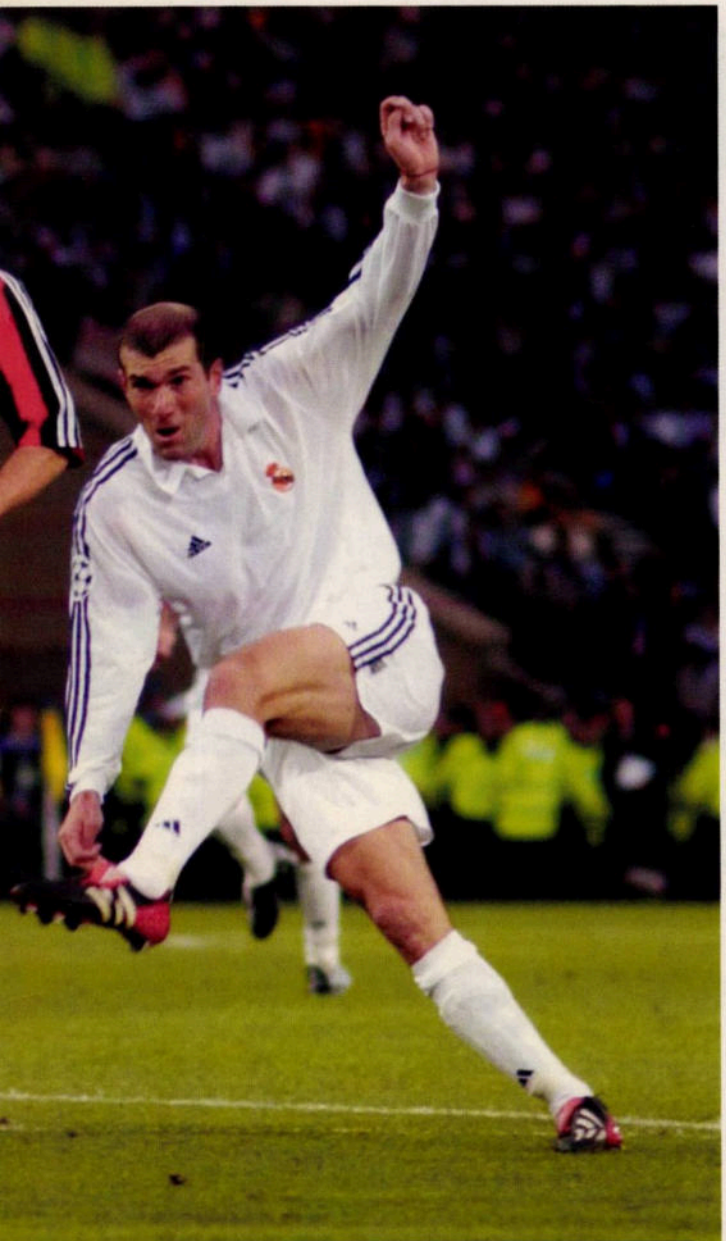
Madrid's toughest opposition was not, perhaps, Leverkusen but the

Moment of magic...Zinedine Zidane unleashes the ferocious volley that enabled R

BAYER LEVERKUSEN 1 (Lucio 14)
REAL MADRID 2 (Raul 9, Zidane 44)

May 15, 2002 – Hampden Park, Glasgow
HT: 1-2. Att: 51,567. Ref: Meier (Swi)

BAYER LEVERKUSEN	REAL MADRID
Butt	Cesar (Casillas 66)
Sebescen (Kirsten 64)	Michel Salgado
Zivkovic	Hierro
Lucio (Babic 90)	Ivan Helguera
Placente	Roberto Carlos
Schneider	Figo (McManaman 60)
Ramelow	Makelele (Flavio Conceicao 72)
Ballack	Solari
Basturk	Zidane
Brdaric (Berbatov 37)	Raul
Neuville	Morientes
Subs not used: Juric, Vranjes, Dzaka, Kleine.	**Subs not used**: Guti, Karanka, Munitis, Pavon.



adrid, in their centenary season, to be crowned kings of Europe for the ninth time

weight of expectation created by so many legends, so many years and the stark realisation that this was their last chance to crown the centenary season with not just any prize but the most valuable in the club's vista.

Third in La Liga and runners-up in the Spanish Cup, a third failure would have been a grievous reward for all those world record millions invested in Zidane and Luis Figo, not to mention Raul's golden handcuffs.

Oddly, Leverkusen, albeit far more modest, confronted a similar nightmare after finishing runners-up in the Bundesliga and runners-up in the German Cup. The treble had been there for them, too, and they had also let it slip, piece by painful piece.

Two clubs, poles apart but equally deserving of their place in the Final. Madrid had stormed through the Champions League groups and forged the most satisfying of semi-final victories over the old enemy from Barcelona. Leverkusen had scraped out of the groups but could boast the destruction of Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United.

Leverkusen's collateral goal was to become the fourth German club to win the European Cup, but that appeared fantasy when Raul put Madrid ahead in their first serious attack in the ninth minute. Roberto Carlos, preparing a throw-in, spotted Raul drifting behind the Leverkusen defence and popped the ball into his stride. Raul claimed his 34th Champions League goal by pushing the ball ever so gently past Hans-Jorg Butt's left hand.

In 1960 the Germans from Frankfurt had scored first and Madrid had saved the day by snapping back. Now history was turned on its head as Leverkusen equalised within five minutes. Bernd Schneider curled in a free-kick from the left and Lucio rocketed into the penalty box to rise above the Madrid defence and head past Cesar.

Leverkusen, aggressively chasing shadows in midfield early on, found new confidence and direction. Thomas Brdaric burst through on the left only for Cesar to smother for a corner, and Boris Zivkovic had a drive saved low by the Madrid keeper. In between, Fernando Morientes forced a high-stretch save from Butt, but it was Leverkusen who were forcing the pace.

Then came a barely perceptible turning point as Leverkusen coach Klaus Toppmoller substituted the angry Brdaric with Bulgarian Dimitar Berbatov. As the game reshaped itself to accommodate the new man, so Madrid regained the lead with the sort of goal one expects of the world's No 1 footballer.

Zidane had coasted quietly around Hampden until the 44th minute. Then Santiago Solari sliced a gap on the left, Roberto Carlos swung in a looping cross and Zidane uncoiled just outside the penalty area to explode a left-foot volley high beyond the helpless Butt's right hand.

It was a goal to grace the greatest of occasions and would have honoured any one of the Madrid greats who had gone before.

Not that Zidane was a one-man match-winner. Equally important, as the teams duelled aggressively for the initiative after the interval, was the engine-room commitment of fellow Frenchman Claude Makelele.

The longer the match went on, the more physical it became. Injury-hobbled Luis Figo, again below par, was substituted on the hour by Steve McManaman, and soon the changes flowed thick and fast. Cesar was injured in falling under pressure. While he received treatment, Leverkusen brought on veteran Ulf Kirsten for Zoltan Sebescen. Then the limping Cesar had to be replaced by Casillas, before Makelele ceded his ball-winner role to the fresh lungs of Flavio Conceicao.

Leverkusen completed their changes by replacing the battered Lucio – who had run himself to a standstill – with Marko Babic. That was in the official last minute, but the drama was far from over. Referee Urs Meier had signalled seven minutes of overtime, which proved sensational.

> 'Victory was preserved by no-cost hometown kid Iker Casillas, who pulled off the most incredible triple-save sequence'

First, keeper Butt joined the Leverkusen attack at a free-kick only to glance his header inches wide, then Casillas produced that stunning hat-trick of last-ditch stops from Yildiray Basturk, Kirsten and Schneider.

No wonder the Madrid reserves hoisted him, rather than Zidane, shoulder-high at the final whistle.

High-profile managerial gurus such as Arsene Wenger, Gerard Houllier, Fabio Capello and Sir Alex Ferguson were at Hampden. But they were mere spectators. Down on the benches it was the self-effacing Vicente Del Bosque, as loyal, long-serving and long-suffering as had been Miguel Munoz back in 1960, who was on top of the managerial world.

That was the final, circle-sealing coincidence as Real Madrid celebrated their happiest night.

WHAT THEY SAID

VICENTE DEL BOSQUE
(Real Madrid coach)
"The players were brilliant – those who played from the start, those who came on as substitutes and those who didn't but supported and kept morale high. I am especially pleased for Casillas. I know it has been a difficult time for him and I hope this has made amends. Winning the Cup for the ninth time more than makes up for our disappointments in the Spanish League and Cup – though even if we had lost I don't think the season could realistically have been described as a failure."

KLAUS TOPPMOLLER
(Bayer Leverkusen coach)
"Football can be a very cruel game sometimes. You wonder why the gods punish you when you work so hard. Look how magnificently we competed, even the players who picked up injuries during the game. We don't have great strength in depth. We knew how dangerous Roberto Carlos could be with those long throws but we let him turn our defence with one for their first goal. Then, although Zidane's goal was sensational, we didn't pick him up when he came forward. When I look back at those last few minutes I still wonder what else we could have done to equalise. I'm proud of my players' achievements this season, and, if last summer I had been told we would be European runners-up, I wouldn't have dared believe it."

RAUL
"We have proved that this club is not only the best in Europe right now but the greatest ever."

ROBERTO CARLOS
"This is my third European Cup and I am certain there will be more. Real Madrid have everything it takes to keep on winning the biggest prizes."

Glasgow belongs to us...Zidane and team-mate Michel Salgado celebrate Real Madrid's Champions League triumph

Pure genius

Zinedine Zidane tells Keir Radnedge about that goal and his World Cup hopes

EVEN the cynical old hacks were on their feet as Zinedine Zidane's left-foot volley crashed past Hans-Jorg Butt and into the Bayer Leverkusen net. That was a measure of the quality of the goal.

Zidane himself shrugged off the superlatives thrown at him later that night and all the following day. How did he get the timing and positioning so right? "Just instinct," he said in an understatement that masked years of hard work beyond the gaze of public pressure.

But football being the game it is, Zidane's strike of genius added to the weight of expectation of what he may achieve as France attempt to become the first European nation since Italy in 1938 to maintain their grip on the World Cup. Fortunately, ZZ has broad shoulders and, at 29, the experience to cope with the demands of an unnatural lifestyle.

Zidane believes France have the ability to emulate the feat of the pre-war Italians. He says: "Each player in our squad is ambitious enough and focused enough for us to win the World Cup again. Winning it once was fabulous enough. Journalists may have to think up some new superlatives if we succeed – and we can.

"I believe the squad is even better now than four years ago. Of course, we will miss great players like Laurent Blanc and Didier Deschamps, but others have emerged. Look at all the goals Thierry Henry and David Trezeguet have been scoring this season in England and Italy.

"I also guarantee we will approach every match as if we were playing the World Cup favourites ourselves. People talk about Argentina but no one can be underestimated. Brazil are also in our half of the draw and they will have particular reasons for wanting to beat us after what happened in the 1998 Final."

Three other great French footballers were hailed as European Footballer of the Year before Zidane. Raymond Kopa collected his European prize in 1958 for inspiring *Les Bleus* to third place in the World Cup; Michel Platini won a hat-trick of awards in the mid-1980s; and Jean-Pierre Papin claimed another for his goals at Marseille. But repeat success in Japan would secure Zidane's status as the greatest of them all.

Every national coach is concerned that moving the start of the World Cup forward to May 31 to escape the worst of the Pacific Rim rainy season will mean Europe-based players will be too tired, after a long, tough season, to play their best.

Zidane disagrees. "In both 1998 and 2000 the end of the club season was really tough physically and mentally, but there was no hangover at the World Cup or European Championship," he says. "Obviously, it's important our preparation for the World Cup finals is properly balanced so we can all recharge our batteries."

Zidane's insight into his own roots and the consequent drive to confront new challenges helped drive his transfer to Real Madrid last summer.

He says: "I wanted a new challenge – to learn about another country, another style of football, another language. The idea had been in the back of my mind for some time and when the chance to join Real came up I knew it was now or never. But I will always be grateful to Juventus. Playing in Italy was a great education. That's where I learnt how to be a winner."

The Frenchman is not short of admirers. Pele has hailed him as the world's No 1 and Juventus coach Marcello Lippi once described Zidane as the "ultimate modern footballer – with great vision, an accurate pass short or long, and a superb shot".

The late Valerii Lobanovskyi, boss of Ukraine and Kyiv Dynamo who was notoriously reluctant to spare even a single word of praise on individuals, said Zidane "does everything you should expect from a soccer star of the 21st century. He plays for the team first and himself second."

Zidane's parents were Algerian immigrants who arrived in France in the wake of the North African independence struggles of the late 1950s. That meant 'Zizou' was considered a second-class citizen growing up in the tough La Castellane suburb of his native Marseille.

The multi-ethnic make-up of the French squad meant international success was hailed not merely as a sporting triumph but also as a social triumph over the neo-fascist politics of Jean-Marie Le Pen. Zidane has been diplomatically cautious enough never to make any such boast. "I am merely a footballer," he says with understated but genuine modesty. "Let others read into my success whatever they like."

Not that Zidane's ultimately triumphant World Cup campaign four years ago was without its upsets.

An explosive debut as a substitute in August 1994, against the Czech Republic, marked Zidane's international arrival. He scored two stunning goals in the last 10 minutes to earn a 2-2 draw, and his presence at the heart of the action was never questioned again.

At least, not until his temperament was called into doubt during the first round of France 98, when Zidane was sent off for a retaliatory foul in the win over Saudi Arabia. Thus he could only watch in horror-struck frustration while his team-mates squeezed past Paraguay in the second round by virtue of Laurent Blanc's golden goal. National coach Aime Jacquet consoled him, saying: "Zizou, the French team are not just you. But what I do know is that it's you who'll make us win."

Back against his adopted homeland of Italy in the quarter-finals, Zidane nervelessly converted the first penalty in France's shoot-out success. The semi-final win over Croatia prepared the stage for Zidane's two-goal, match-winning display in the Final. Both his goals, unusually, were headers.

It was inevitable that he would be crowned European Footballer of the Year with almost 200 more voting points than runner-up Davor Suker of Croatia. One more month and, in the spring of 1999, Zidane was laying his hands on FIFA's World Player trophy.

> 'How did Zidane get his timing and positioning right? Just instinct, he said – an understatement masking years of hard work'

From the depths of first-round despair to the pinnacles of success. But Zidane has never been one to sit back even though his basic pay and income from promotional contracts with the likes of Adidas, Ford and Volvic is estimated at £9 million.

In his own words: "I've got used to being a winner and it's a great feeling. You want it to go on... and on...and on."

INTERCLUBNET WORLD SOCCER PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Identity card

Name Zinedine Zidane
Club Real Madrid (Spain)
Nationality French
EU passport Yes
Age 29
Position Midfield, playmaker
Squad number 5
Favourite foot Either
Contract expires 2005
Date of birth 23.06.1972
Place of birth Marseille
Height 185cm
Weight 80kg

Intl apps 73
Intl goals 20
Career apps 471
Career club goals 80

Honours
1996 - World Club Cup, European Supercup
1997 - Italian lge chp, Italian cup
1998 - World Cup, Italian lge chp, FIFA World Player of the Year, European Footballer of the Year
2000 - European Chp, FIFA World Player of the Year
2001 - Spanish Supercup
2002 - Euro Champions Lge

This past season (all competitions)
Appearances 50
Goals 12

Previous league career

season	club	apps	goals
1988-89	Cannes	2	0
1989-90	Cannes	0	0
1990-91	Cannes	28	1
1991-92	Cannes	31	5
1992-93	Bordeaux	35	10
1993-94	Bordeaux	34	6
1994-95	Bordeaux	37	6
1995-96	Bordeaux	33	6
1996-97	Juventus	29	5
1997-98	Juventus	32	7
1998-99	Juventus	25	2
1999-00	Juventus	32	4
2000-01	Juventus	33	6

INTERCLUBNET – THE ULTIMATE IN SOCCER COMMUNICATION

No regrets...Di Stefano acknowledges his wonderful career

The grand master

Alfredo Di Stefano reflects on his life and times to Keir Radnedge

VETERANS of Real Madrid's 7-3 victory over Eintracht Frankfurt were reunited at Hampden Park before the Spanish club's latest Glasgow glory day. Greatest of them all was Alfredo Di Stefano, who inspired Madrid to victory in the first five European Cup Finals and scored a hat-trick against the Germans.

Now Madrid's honorary president, Di Stefano was this time in the VIP box to watch the latest superstars – Zidane, Figo and Raul – emulate his own achievements.

WORLD SOCCER: When Real Madrid appointed you honorary president they were accused by some people of placing too much importance on the past. Did you take that as a personal criticism?

ALFREDO DI STEFANO: It's irrelevant. The strength of Real Madrid is the way the club maintains a pride in its history without losing sight of its present-day priorities. Some clubs spend too much time looking back and not enough time looking forward. Real Madrid is not like that. I am not a great fan of the way different eras are labelled as if they belong to one particular player – you are always hearing talk of the Real Madrid of Di Stefano or the Real Madrid of Raul, for example. But the club is far greater than any one player, and no one should ever forget that.

So how do you react to comments that the Real Madrid side who won the 1960 European Cup were the team of Di Stefano and Puskas?

I always try to point out that it's untrue. I have never changed my view that football is a team game and everybody in the team depends on everyone else. So the players must take collective responsibility whether they win or lose.

'I dislike hearing talk of the Real of Di Stefano. This club has always been greater than any player, and no one should forget it'

Can Real Madrid go on winning European Cups this century as they did in the last?

Obviously the fans want the club to win as many prizes as possible but it won't be easy. Football is getting more and more competitive at the highest level. Plenty of other clubs in Spain and elsewhere in the world share the same ambitions.

Many people consider you the greatest player of all time. Who would you pick?

I don't think it's possible. If you choose one player then you can easily think of another 30 who were just as good. It's also impossible to compare players of different eras. You can make that sort of choice in boxing, for example, or tennis or athletics. But football is different because each player brings different qualities to the team. That's why the greatest players are always the ones who play for great teams.

Do you look back at your career with any regrets about matches lost or trophies you did not win?

No, no regrets on that score. I am delighted with all the titles and trophies I won – much more than I could ever have dreamed of. In sports terms, I've had a wonderful career.

It's been suggested that football will be overtaken in this century as the world's No 1 sport. Do you think that is likely?

No. Football still has a great future, although I think a lot of work is still needed to popularise it in parts of Africa and Asia. Wherever you go you can't help but be impressed by the passion people have for football, men and women. Just look at the rise of women's football.

Joan Gaspart, the president of Barcelona, said recently that Real Madrid's first five European Cup wins were worthless because the opposition in the 1950s and early 1960s was so weak. Does he have a point?

I don't have much respect for Gaspart's views about football. This time I think he was just trying to unsettle us ahead of the semi-final against Barcelona. You can see what effect it had – absolutely none.

You enjoyed huge success as a player but nothing comparable as a coach. Why was that?

I loved working as a coach. The trouble is, too many people think that the manager is all-important when it comes to winning or losing, and it's not like that. It's players who win or lose a match. Do you know the greatest frustration for a player who becomes a coach? It is that he has to sit on the bench on the touchline and cannot put on his boots, get out on the pitch and put things right the way he wants.

Is it true that you coached Real Madrid without winning anything?

True, but I was fortunate enough, as a manager, to win League titles with Boca Juniors and River Plate in my native Argentina and with Valencia – 31 years ago – in Spain. But I repeat, the players had much more input into those successes than I did. It was they who got the fans cheering.

Major players...coach Toppmoller and general manager Calmund

Calmund and Co

Nick Bidwell on the man behind Leverkusen's amazing run to the Final

BAYER LEVERKUSEN'S hat-trick of near-misses in the Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup would have caused no one at the Rhineland club more pain than managing director Reiner Calmund.

The 53-year-old, a larger than life figure both temperamentally and physically, has devoted most of his adult life to the footballers of Leverkusen, taking an unfashionable works team owned by the Bayer pharmaceutical group and transforming them into a genuine force in Germany and Europe.

"In many ways, this has been a wonderful season for us," declared Calmund, whose non-stop commitment to the Leverkusen cause has come at a high price, namely three heart attacks and a pair of failed marriages. "I'm proud of the squad and coach Klaus Toppmoller, who has worked wonders for us since arriving last summer. However, it's also a harsh reality that when you don't win titles, you don't have nearly as much standing in today's world."

'It's a harsh reality that when you don't win titles, you don't have nearly as much standing in today's world'

Calmund started out at Leverkusen as a youth coach in 1976, becoming a loyal club servant who thought nothing of conducting training sessions, taking the wheel of the team bus and washing kit. But soon this highly-driven character would be rising through the administrative ranks of the club. By the time Leverkusen won promotion to the Bundesliga in 1979, he was already becoming an influential voice there.

Until two decades ago, the football section was regarded by the Bayer top brass as just one of 16 extra-curricular activities at their sports club. Handball, boxing, basketball, judo, ice skating, fencing, gymnastics, volleyball were considered just as important. Athletics, meanwhile, took priority, with a host of Olympic, world and European champions being produced. But Calmund and like-minded board members lobbied hard for greater funding for football and finally got their way in the early 1980s.

Better quality players were signed, leading coaches such as ex-Bayern boss Dettmar Cramer and former German national team assistant Erich Ribbeck arrived, and results improved dramatically. So much so that the *Leverkusener* even triumphed in Europe, beating Espanyol in the 1988 UEFA Cup Final.

The same year, Calmund became managing director and with typical gusto set about taking the team upwards. Plans were drawn up to completely renovate their dilapidated home ground, the Ulrich Haberland Stadion – now the state-of-the-art BayArena – medical facilities and commercial infrastructure were beefed up, a youth academy was created and extensive scouting systems were put into place.

Not by chance have Leverkusen enjoyed so much success with Brazilian imports such as Tita, Jorginho, Paulo Sergio, Emerson and now Ze Roberto and Lucio. Exploiting Bayer's connections in that part of the world and using company employees as scouts, they have made a habit of being first in the queue for Brazilian talent, buying relatively cheaply, making sure their South American signings feel comfortable in their new surroundings and then selling high when the relative unknowns blossom into fully-fledged stars.

Calmund has long specialised in audacious transfer market coups. He was the first to react when the Iron Curtain fell, snapping up DDR international attackers Ulf Kirsten and Andreas Thom. He also raised Leverkusen's profile no end in the early 1990s with the signing of veteran German superstars Bernd Schuster and Rudi Voller.

Bayer's support for the footballers of Leverkusen – currently £10 million a season – has provoked widespread envy in other parts of Germany, and rivals love to sneer about Calmund's overflowing war-chest. Yet the Bayer benevolence does not wholly explain why Leverkusen, a small, industrial town to the north of Cologne, has become one of Europe's footballing capitals.

With an annual budget of only £22m, the *Leverkusener* are far from residents of the big European league. Great organisation, managerial flair and imaginative forward planning have played their part too.

"Once, the big guys would eat the little ones," says Calmund. "Now it's a case of the quick eating the slow, and we must see to it that we always belong to the quick. We have to be faster, stronger and more intelligent than the others." Now for some trophies.

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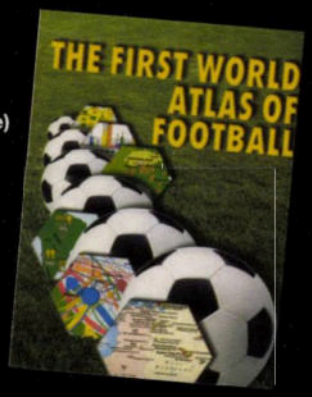

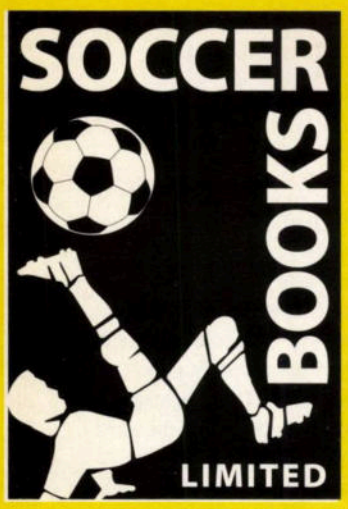

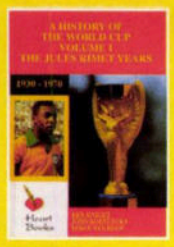

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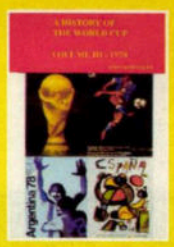

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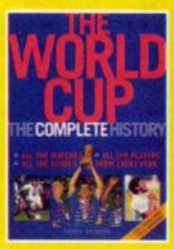

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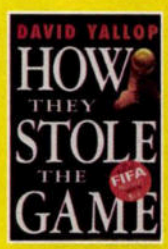

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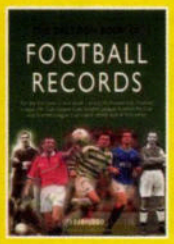

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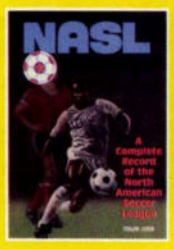

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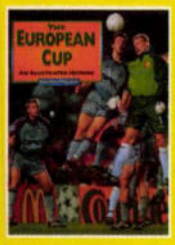

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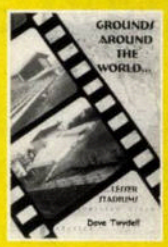

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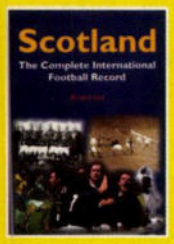

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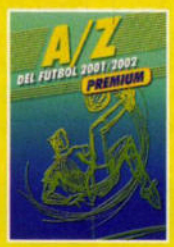

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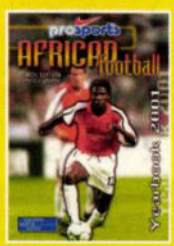

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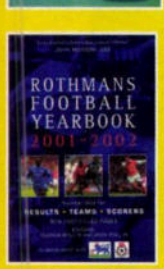

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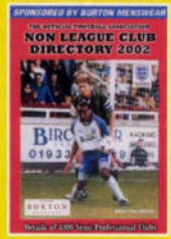

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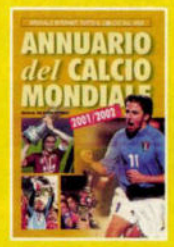

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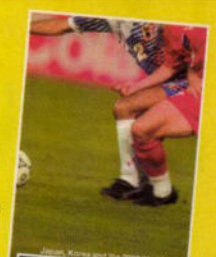
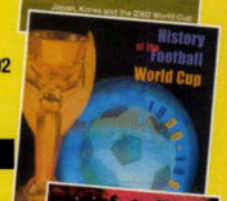

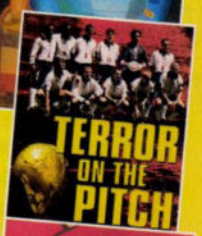

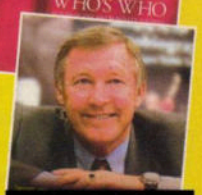

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UPDATE

FRANCE

Cisse's fast track to success

WHEN France won the World Cup four years ago the only criticism levelled at Aime Jacquet's men was that they lacked a class striker. The decisive goals came from attacking midfielders such as Zinedine Zidane and even defenders such as Laurent Blanc and Lilian Thuram.

Now the landscape has changed. Jacquet's successor, Roger Lemerre, is spoiled for choice since Juventus' David Trezeguet and Arsenal's Thierry Henry have grown up into top-scoring central strikers.

Yet Henry and Trezeguet dare not be complacent. Even Nicolas Anelka, a fixture in France squads for much of the past three years, has been dropped after the explosive arrival on the scene of Auxerre's Djibril Cisse.

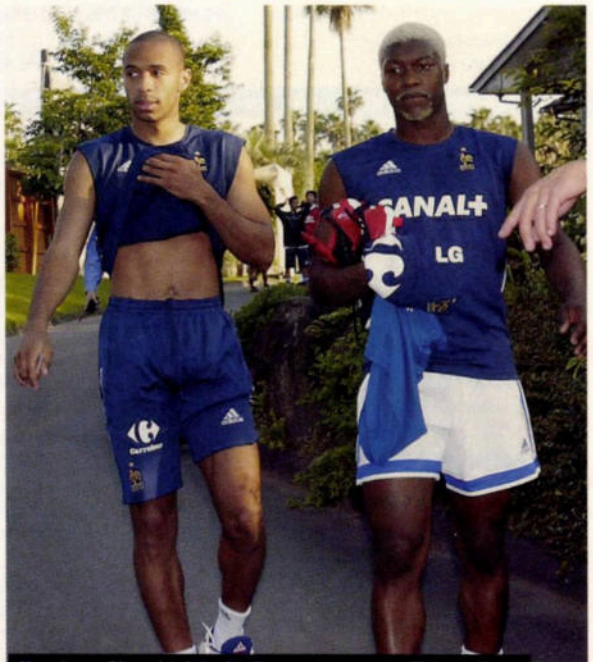
The 20-year-old from Arles was unknown 18 months ago to the vast majority of French fans. But all that has changed since he finished as the French League's joint top scorer on 22 goals. Cisse was promoted to the senior squad and made his debut as a second-half substitute in the 2-1 friendly defeat by Belgium in mid-May.

Cisse owes a major debt to Guy Roux, Auxerre's veteran manager, who has kept a tight rein on his latest protege's activities. Roux's methods are reminiscent of those used by both Brian Clough and Sir Alex Ferguson to protect their younger stars.

Roux told newspaper reporters: "Stop making such a fuss of Cisse. It's sporting showbiz. Leave him alone. He's got a reasonable right foot, a poor left foot and he can't head the ball. So why all the fuss? I don't want him turned into a second Anelka. He has another two years of his apprenticeship to serve with us before he can call himself a real footballer."

Cisse will start the World Cup as a reserve, with 2006 probably more in mind. But if injury problems strike, he will be ready. Indeed, it would not be the first time France had seen an attacking gamble pay off. In 1958 they went to Sweden expecting the line to be led by Reims' Rene Bliard. But Bliard was injured on the eve of the finals so manager Paul Nicholas had to turn to Bliard's Reims club-mate Just Fontaine.

Three weeks later the prolific Fontaine had made history by scoring 13 goals – a finals record which may never be broken. If anyone has the talent to follow in Fontaine's footsteps, then Cisse could be the man. After all, international football runs in the family.



New boy...Cisse (right) with France team-mate Thierry Henry

As Cisse explains: "My father, whose name was also Djibril, was born in Guinea but played international football for the Ivory Coast. So, while I am qualified to play for France I feel Ivorian. But it wasn't my father, funnily enough, who inspired my passion for football. That was my grandfather, who also played in France, in the lower leagues with Arles – my first club. He was my original football hero."

Inevitably, Cisse will leave Auxerre sooner rather than later to improve both his bank balance and his prospects of trophies. He extended his contract recently until 2006 but that was merely a means to guarantee the club a financial return.

He says: "I do fancy playing in the Premiership. I think there's more space there in which a forward can work than in, say, Italy or Spain. When I was younger I dreamed of playing for Manchester United or Liverpool but if I say that too much people get the wrong impression. One of the downsides to my success this past season has been the people who follow me around now, especially all the agents."

Cisse had better get used to it – fast.

Keir Radnedge

> 'Why all the fuss? He has another two years of his apprenticeship to serve'
> *– Guy Roux on Cisse*

GROUP A

SENEGAL

Metsu stays loyal

SIMPLE mathematics meant that coach Bruno Metsu had one name to add to the 22 Lions of Terenaga who did so well at the African Nations Cup finals in Mali. The 23rd player for the World Cup is the third-choice goalkeeper, Kalilou Cissokho, from Senegalese champions Jeanne d'Arc and the only home-based player in the squad.

Metsu did not include new find Mamadou Niang, who is on reserve standby along with Milan's youth team defender Mohamed Adama Sarr.

Mark Gleeson

URUGUAY

Fonseca misses final cut

TWELVE years ago Daniel Fonseca scored Uruguay's last World Cup goal. He was offered the chance to score the next when he was included in the squad to play friendlies against the USA and China. In the event, fitness let him down and he was dropped from the final 23.

One veteran who did make the cut is Gustavo Mendez. The right-back returned to Uruguay, to Nacional, in a bid to force his way back. He displaced Washington Tais.

Those who can count themselves unlucky to miss out include midfielders Diego Perez and Guillermo Giacomazzi and striker Javier Ernesto Chevanton.

Tim Vickery

DENMARK

Everything OK after Laursen scare

THE Danes left for the World Cup with a clean bill of health after beating Cameroon 2-1 in their final warm-up fixture. There had been fears Milan defender Martin Laursen might miss out with an ankle injury, but he passed a late medical. So did top scorer Ebbe Sand, who also had an ankle problem.

Coach Morten Olsen was delighted that assistant Michael Laudrup will take over as Brondby coach after the World Cup. "Michael will introduce our style of play at Brondby and that can only be an advantage," he said.

Jim Holden

GROUP B

PARAGUAY

Anger at Enciso absence

CONTROVERSIAL coach Cesare Maldini insists that he alone picks the team. Many in Paraguay are not so sure.

Julio Cesar Enciso is the best midfield anchorman at Maldini's disposal. "We need him," says defender Carlos Gamarra. But captain and goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert, unable to forgive Enciso for making himself unavailable to face Brazil last year, is dead against it. The irony here is that Chilavert has been known to choose when and when not to play for Paraguay, most notably opting out of the 1999 Copa America on home soil.

A veteran of France 98, Enciso has helped guide Olimpia through to the semi-finals of the Libertadores Cup. But he is out, and his club reserve Juan Carlos Franco is in, a perverse decision that Paraguay may have cause to regret.

Tim Vickery

SOUTH AFRICA

Sono sticks with Queiroz's men

WHEN Jomo Sono engineered the Portuguese trainer Carlos Queiroz out of his post as South African coach in March, he promised to draft in fresh talent and on-form players.

Out, said Sono, would go those not playing regular European club football, even if they were better players than the local League had to offer. "We are not going to win the World Cup but rather to restore our pride," Sono said.

But it all turned into a false prophecy as Sono picked all but two of Queiroz's players from the African Nations Cup finals, including Pierre Issa, sidelined by Watford.

It made many observers wonder why Queiroz had to depart in the first place. But more sensational was the return to action of captain Lucas Radebe after his prolonged absence with ankle and knee injuries. The Leeds United defender had been out since last March, but he made a bid for fitness in the English club's reserve team and then played his first international in 17 months in early May. His first full match in 14 months came against Scotland in Hong Kong as South Africa scored their biggest-ever win over European opposition with a 2-0 triumph.

Mark Gleeson

SLOVENIA

No surprises from Srecko

THERE were no surprises in Srecko Katanec's final squad. Forward Senad Tiganj and defender Spasoje Bulajic made the cut, despite speculation they would be sacrificed in favour of players from newly-crowned champions Maribor; Ermin Rakovic and Fabjan Cipot were the ones to miss out.

The squad headed for a training camp in Japan in good spirits following a 2-0 win over Ghana in Ljubljana.

John Holmesdale

SPAIN

Freak injury rules out Canizares

FIRST-CHOICE goalkeeper Santiago Canizares was ruled out of the World Cup after suffering a freak accident in which he dropped a bottle of aftershave on his foot.

Canizares was in his hotel room in Jerez, where the Spanish were holding a training camp before heading for South Korea.

"The glass shattered on impact and cut through a tendon," said team spokesman Fernando Garrido. "He is understandably very upset." Pedro Contreras of Malaga was called into the squad as cover for Iker Casillas and Valladolid's Ricardo.

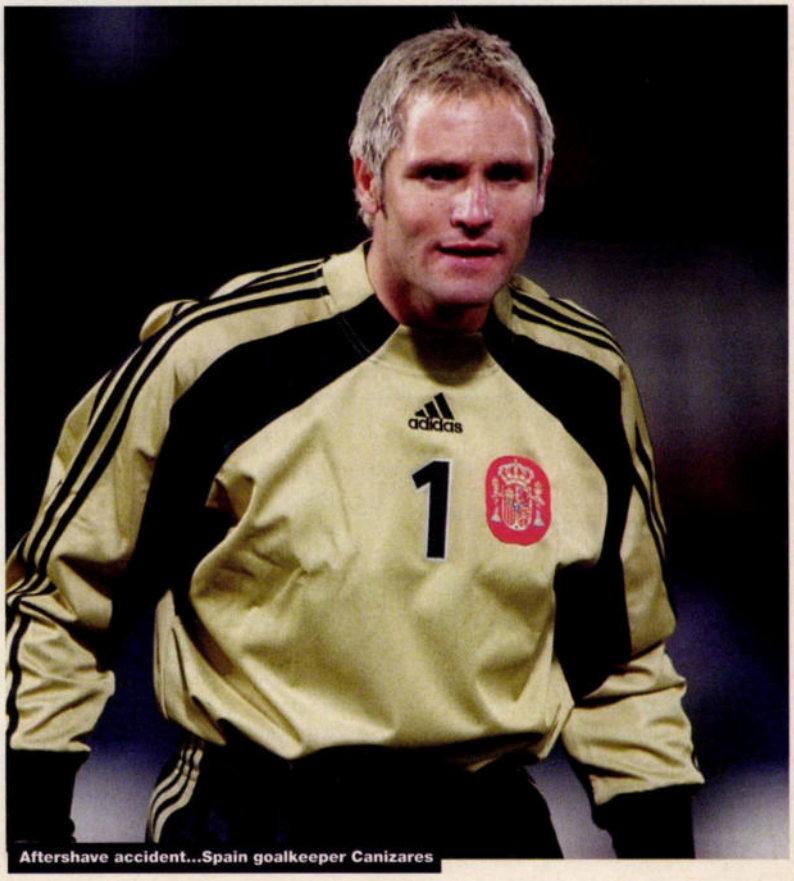
Coach Jose Antonio Camacho sprung a number of surprises in his final squad, the biggest of which was the inclusion of the uncapped Mallorca forward Luque. Camacho included no left-wingers (surprisingly, neither Vicente nor Munitis made the cut) in a squad top-heavy with midfielders.

Midfielder Josep Guardiola was ruled out after damaging knee ligaments while playing for Brescia. His withdrawal could open the door for Xavi to gain a starting place.

Jeff King

'The glass shattered on impact and cut through a tendon. He is understandably upset'

– Spain spokesman Fernando Garrido on keeper Canizares



Aftershave accident...Spain goalkeeper Canizares

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

UPDATE

BRAZIL

Muted protests for Romario

THERE was a pro-Romario demonstration outside the hotel where Luiz Felipe Scolari named the Brazil squad. But it was half-hearted stuff.

The battle had already been lost; coach and senior players wanted him out, and only disastrous form in the warm-up matches would have been enough to get him in.

Romario is emphatically not part of what Scolari calls his 'family' – dysfunctional during qualification but growing in optimism during the build-up to the finals.

The biggest worry remains the lack of passing skills in midfield, hence the recall of Vampeta, the only half-surprise in the squad. Deportivo La Coruna attacking midfielder Djalminha paid a high price for butting his club coach Javier Irureta during a training-ground argument; the incident tipped the scales in favour of the highly promising Kaka, the baby of the squad, who won the last slot.

Scolari made a point of giving the No 7 shirt to captain Emerson Ferreira and 17 to supersub Denilson. "I like all the numbers which end in 7," he said.

Back home, many are more concerned with his fetish for 3-5-2, a system still distrusted in Brazil. Scolari argues that Cafu's lack of marking skills gives him no choice; and also that the system is perfect for carrying out what he calls 'the blitz' – the high-pressure marking game he has been working on in training.

Tim Vickery

Baby's place...Kaka grabbed the last spot in Brazil's squad

'The biggest worry remains the lack of passing skills in Brazil's midfield, hence the recall of Vampeta'

CHINA

Li Ming omitted

BORA MILUTINOVIC has overlooked veteran left-sided midfielder Li Ming in favour of youngster Gao Yao. The move has attracted criticism, with protests raised in support of the popular 31-year-old.

Also out is Zhang Yuning, who has been replaced by Shao Jiayi. Fan Zhiyi, the newly crowned Asian Player of the Year, picked up a knock in the friendly match against PSV Eindhoven but was still expected to be fit in time for China's first game.

Milutinovic has gambled on the fitness of midfielder Yu Genwei. The 28-year-old Tianjin Taida playmaker, a national hero since his goal against Oman sealed China's World Cup qualification, was included despite missing the bulk of his country's warm-up campaign with a knee injury.

China suffered from a goal drought in their pre-finals games, losing 1-0 to a jet-lagged PSV side, 2-0 to Uruguay and drawing 0-0 with South Korea.

Michael Church

COSTA RICA

Parks out but Wanchope in

DESPITE losing captain Reynaldo Parks to injury, Costa Rica breathed a collective sigh of relief with the news that star forward Paulo Wanchope, plus Jervis Drummond and Hernan Medford, would be fit in time for the June 4 match with China.

The biggest surprises when the Ticos' final 23-man squad was announced were Juan Jose Rodriguez, Daniel Vallejos, and to a lesser degree, Winston Parks. Rodriguez received his first cap in April at the age of 34 and took the place of the veteran defender Austin Berry, holder of 66 caps.

Vallejos, 20, also received his first cap in April and edged out Geovanny Jara, a member of the Italia 90 squad.

Winston Parks signed with Udinese after scoring four goals in the Under-20 World Youth Cup last year in Argentina, but has yet to play in Serie A. He had three caps at the time the World Cup squad was announced.

Greg Reeser

TURKEY

Tayfun and Ogun dropped

MIDFIELDER Tayfun Korkut and defender Ogun Temizkanoglu were the main casualties from coach Senol Gunes's final squad of 23.

Ogun, the 32-year-old Fenerbahce defender, was omitted from the preliminary squad of 28, having fallen out with the coach after he was substituted in April's 2-0 friendly win over Chile.

Tayfun had expected to be included in the final squad as back-up on the left side of midfield.

His exclusion paved the way for a call-up for Leicester City's Muzzy Izzet, who returned to the squad after injury.

Gunes gave three youngsters their first international call-up for the preliminary squad of 28, but all three – Fenerbahce striker Serhat Akin, Genclerbirligi defender Ismail Gulduren and Kocaelispor midfielder Cihan Haspolat – failed to make the final cut. Goalkeeper Metin Aktas was another to miss out.

John Holmesdale

GROUP C

GROUP D

POLAND

Engel experiments with new men

COACH Jerzy Engel sprang a number of surprises when naming a preliminary squad of 24 to take to Korea.

After insisting that "there is no time for experiments", Engel called up four new players to his squad. Three of them, defender Arkadiusz Glowacki (Wisla Krakow) and midfielders Maciej Murawski (Legia Warsaw) and Pawel Sibik (Odra Wodzislaw) had only made one previous international appearance, against the Faroe Islands in February, while the fourth, Legia striker Cezary Kucharski, was last capped in 1998. Artur Wichniarek, top scorer in the Bundesliga 2 with Arminia Bielefeld, was one of five on a reserve list, but experienced midfielder Tomasz Iwan, out of form with Austria Wien, was dropped completely, a decision that two players – Piotr Swierczewski and Tomasz Waldoch – criticised publicly.

Right midfield is Engel's biggest problem, with the injured Bartosz Karwan dropped from the 24 when the final 23 was named. Jacek Krzynowek may now start on the right.

Dariusz Kurowski

SOUTH KOREA

Cha's family fortunes

CHA DOO-LI has a lot to live up to at this World Cup. The 21-year-old striker will probably gain more attention than his as yet untested talent deserves – just because of his family name.

Cha is the son of Korea's most famous footballing personality, Cha Bum-kun. Cha senior was a footballing pioneer in the 1980s, becoming the first Korean to play in Europe successfully, with Eintracht Frankfurt and Bayer Leverkusen (he won the 1988 UEFA Cup with the latter). Cha gained more than 100 caps for South Korea and was coach of the national side at France 98.

Cha junior is almost a chip of the old block. Like his father he is a bustling, physical forward and made his international debut last year.

Cha, speaking fluently in German, is aware of the intense interest in his career, but insists: "I can't change who I am, and I would not want to. But I am my own person. My father had a great career in Germany, but I am just trying to do my own thing."

He admits: "I feel more German than Korean. I was born in Germany, I spent the first 10 years of my life there and I still have a lot of links." Including dual German-Korean citizenship, although he insists that his future is now with the Korean national side.

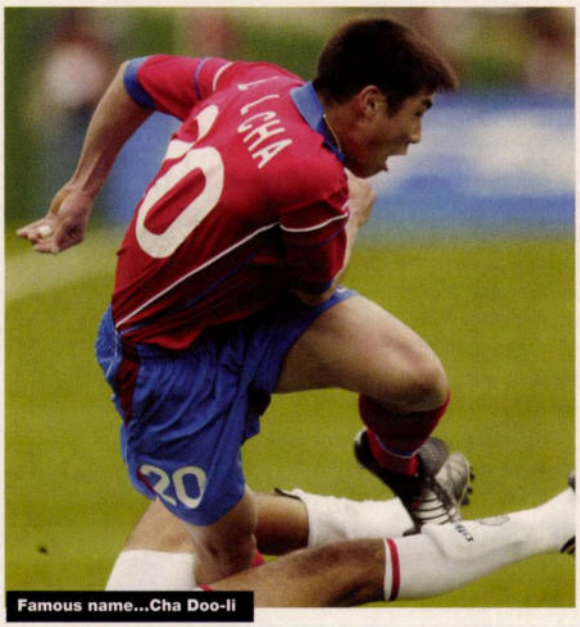
Cha was included in Guus Hiddink's final World Cup squad (which contained few surprises) ahead of another young striker, Lee Dong-gook. Lee had an unsuccessful spell in Germany with Werder Bremen in 2000-01, and Cha admits: "I would love to play in the Bundesliga at some stage in my career."

The World Cup will be a family affair for Cha. His father will be working as a TV analyst, while his sister will be employed by the organisers as an interpreter.

Cha may find himself watching much of the action from the bench – Hwang Sun-hong, Choi Yong-soo and Seol Ki-hyeon will be ahead of him in the pecking order.

Not even a famous name can change that.

Gavin Hamilton



Famous name...Cha Doo-li

'I feel more German than Korean'

– Cha Doo-li

UNITED STATES

Loss of Armas forces changes

THE late loss of 29-year-old defensive midfielder Chris Armas, who suffered a freak, non-contact knee injury in the friendly against Uruguay, will mean some tactical changes for the USA. "He's going to be tough to replace," said coach Bruce Arena, "There will be a couple of things we'll need to do differently."

Full-back Steve Cherundolo (Hannover 96) was added to the squad, while Arena ponders a midfield realignment. A possible answer would be to include Pablo Mastroeni and use either John O'Brien or Claudio Reyna in a more defensive role.

Paul Gardner

PORTUGAL

Kenedy sent home after positive drugs test

HUGO VIANA became the youngest player ever to be included in a World Cup squad when he was called up as a late replacement for Daniel Kenedy, who was sent home after failing a drugs test.

Kenedy, a defensive midfielder for Maritimo, had been a surprise inclusion by coach Antonio Oliveira. But he tested positive for an unnamed substance in Lisbon before he was called up to the squad.

"It's a very sad day for me," he said. "I took a pill to lose weight, and I didn't know it contained an illegal substance. I wasn't trying to dope myself. I used the pill when I was on vacation for about 10 days; I had no idea."

Viana, who broke into the first team at domestic Double winners Sporting Lisbon this season, was with the Portuguese Under-21 side at the European Championship in Switzerland when he got the call to join the senior squad.

The form and fitness of Luis Figo was a major concern for the Portuguese ahead of their departure for Korea. Figo, who was substituted during Real Madrid's Champions League Final win over Leverkusen, was told to rest his troubled ankle ahead of Portugal's opening game against the United States.

John Holmesdale

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

UPDATE

GERMANY

Injury angst for Voller

NATIONAL coach Rudi Voller must think he is the subject of a World Cup curse. It was bad enough that key central defender Jens Nowotny was ruled out with torn knee ligaments and that one of the few truly creative players in the country, the oft-injured Mehmet Scholl, declared himself unfit for the finals ("my body has been sending me clear signals I cannot ignore"). But within three weeks of those two blows, the call-off stream had turned into a cascade.

Borussia Dortmund marker Christian Worns finally had to admit defeat to a long-standing knee problem, club colleague Jorg Heinrich, a defender or midfielder, threw in the towel ("I've had a lot of injuries this season and in my present shape, I will be no help to the national team"), while young playmaker Sebastian Deisler kissed goodbye to his World Cup dreams when he displaced a kneecap in Germany's last warm-up game, against Austria.

Cruel luck on Deisler. After suffering a serious knee injury early in the season and a complicated springtime thigh strain, he seemed to be winning his race against the clock for fitness.

Worns and Deisler were duly replaced by Frank Baumann of Werder Bremen and Dortmund's Lars Ricken; Heinrich's spot went to Jorg Bohme of Schalke, who only a few days earlier had blasted Voller for leaving him out of the original squad.

"I can't see anyone better than me for the left-sided attacking midfield spot," roared Bohme. "What has to happen before I have my chance?" The answer – a Voller U-turn.

Cruel blow...Deisler is stretchered off against Austria

Other members of the squad have their medical worries, too. Hertha Berlin utility man Marko Rehmer damaged a shoulder in training on the eve of the Austria match, just days after announcing his full recovery from the ankle problem that kept him out of the last three months of the Bundesliga season; Christian Ziege continues to struggle with his left knee; and all-important scoring midfielder Michael Ballack has been soldiering on with a painful foot for several weeks.

In a recent poll of Bundesliga general managers, the consensus was that Germany would reach the quarter-finals. It may prove wishful thinking.

Nick Bidwell

'Heinrich's place went to Bohme, who only a few days earlier had blasted Voller for leaving him out of the original squad'

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Captain Keane sent home

ROY KEANE, the team's talismanic captain, was sent home from Ireland's training camp by manager Mick McCarthy after he criticised the facilities, the coaching staff and his side's preparations for the finals.

Keane had originally walked out following an argument with goalkeeping coach Packie Bonner during a five-a-side training match, but had changed his mind by the next morning. However, after critical comments from Keane appeared in the Irish press, McCarthy felt he had no option but to send home his best player. The manager took his decision despite the fact that FIFA's squad deadline had passed and the Republic would be unable to replace the Manchester United midfielder.

Keane said the Republic's training facilities were "just the tip of the iceberg. I've come over here to do well but if I feel we're not all wanting the same things, there's no point. It's been going on a while."

In comparison with the Keane bombshell, there were few surprises in the final squad. Millwall midfielder Steven Reid was one of those youngsters disappointed to be left out by McCarthy. But an injury to Mark Kennedy earned a call-up for Reid, who was on his way to the airport for a holiday in Barbados when he heard the news.

Sean Creedon

GROUP E

SAUDI ARABIA

Al-Meshal out of the reckoning

THE Saudis were dealt a major blow when Talal Al-Meshal was forced to pull out of the squad. The forward was unable to travel to Japan after suffering a recurrence of the ankle injury that had kept him out of much of the qualifying tournament.

Abdullah Bin Shehan, a nominee for this year's Asian Player of the Year award, was also excluded after failing to fully recover from a knee injury. Mohsin Harthi held on to his place in the team. He was initially expected to be one of four players cut from the preliminary 27 that travelled to Japan.

Michael Church

CAMEROON

Players threaten strike over cash

NO World Cup trip for Cameroon could ever be complete without the customary strike over appearance fees and bonus monies. Sure enough, the issue reared its ugly head on the eve of the 2002 finals. The team's trip out of Paris to Japan was delayed while the players haggled with officials.

However, the row was not expected to have any impact on the team's form, which continued to impress in the wake of their African Nations Cup victory in February.

The Indomitable Lions' 2-1 defeat by Denmark in mid-May was the first in 12 games since German coach Winfried Schafer took over last September.

There are few changes from the Nations Cup squad. Defender Pierre Njanka, one of those not in Mali, took a place after winning his battle against injury. Middlesbrough's Joseph-Desire Job, who played three matches in six months on loan at Metz, surprisingly made the final cut, too.

Mark Gleeson

GROUP F

ARGENTINA

Caniggia in, but no Saviola

THE final World Cup squad contained no surprises as virtually all the players featured in the qualifiers. One exception was 35-year-old Claudio Caniggia. Some may have expected that Javier Saviola's form for Barcelona might have counted in his favour, but he was hardly given a chance in warm-up games (unlike the Rangers player). Caniggia is a likely deputy for Ariel Ortega.

The biggest surprise has been Gabriel Batistuta's appearances in practice games in Japan. It has been assumed that he will not figure in the starting line-up.

Marcelo Bielsa has settled his money dispute with the FA. In a compromise, the association paid the £300,000 salary owed to the coach in dollars, but will pay a future salary in pesos. Because the peso has been devalued, Bielsa's pay will be a third of its original value. As a result, few expect him to stay as coach after the World Cup.

Eric Weil

ENGLAND

Eriksson stunned by Gerrard absence

COACH Sven Goran Eriksson was putting a brave face on the injuries to Steven Gerrard (groin) and Kieron Dyer (knee) that have threatened to scupper his side's chances in Japan.

"What I will not do is talk about injuries or bad luck in the World Cup," Eriksson said. "The squad we have are good enough to cope with these problems.

"Gerrard was something of a surprise. Liverpool felt the injury was not too bad at first, but now it looks so much worse. Still, we have other players coming in and I'm sure they will do a good job." The loss of Gerrard, who was replaced by his Liverpool team-mate Danny Murphy, is huge.

Dyer was included in the final squad in the hope that he will be fit in time to face Argentina and Nigeria, the second and third group games. The poor performance of Dyer's standby replacement Trevor Sinclair in the friendly against South Korea probably decided Eriksson in favour of Dyer.

But with David Beckham and Nicky Butt playing no part in warm-up games, Eriksson is desperately short of midfielders. He may now play 4-3-3, with Emile Heskey and Darius Vassell alongside Michael Owen in attack.

In defence, Martin Keown and Wes Brown were surprise inclusions, while Danny Mills is the likely replacement for Gary Neville, another ruled out by injury.

Gavin Hamilton

NIGERIA

Oliseh out as Onigbinde springs surprises

THE spat between Sunday Oliseh and Nigerian officialdom started off as an exchange of accusations in the newspapers and got progressively more vitriolic as the months went by, with both sides stubbornly refusing to back down.

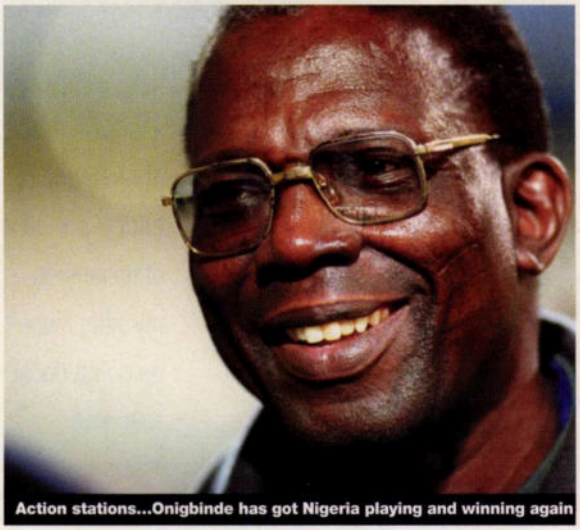
As a result, Nigeria omitted their captain from the World Cup finals, denying a third successive appearance at the tournament to a player who has appeared more times for Nigeria over the past four years than any other.

Oliseh had been accused, unfairly say his team-mates, of being a disruptive influence at the Nations Cup finals in Mali. That is Nigerian official-speak for 'a player who does not cow-tow to the egos of ministers, sports officials and association bosses'.

National coach Chief Adegboye Onigbinde might not have much of an international profile but he has got Nigeria playing and winning again, following their disappointing third-place finish at the Nations Cup. Away victories over Ireland and Scotland have boosted morale and put the team's 'group of death' opponents on notice.

Teenage Paris Saint-Germain striker Bartholomew Ogbeche has not proved as big a sensation as was hoped but he has made the squad. Several others returned from the wilderness, including Mutiu Adepoju and James Obiorah. Adepoju had not played for Nigeria for more than two years and had not even been mentioned among the long list of possible candidates for the 23-man squad. But the ageing midfielder, stuck in the anonymity of the Spanish Second Division, invited himself to the training camp before the friendly against Scotland in Aberdeen, was allowed to train with his compatriots and eventually made the squad. Not the accepted way of doing things, but effective nevertheless.

Mark Gleeson



Action stations...Onigbinde has got Nigeria playing and winning again

'Away wins over Ireland and Scotland have boosted morale and put Nigeria's 'group of death' opponents on notice'

SWEDEN

Jakobsson makes the cut

THE final World Cup squad included only a couple of surprises. In defence, the inclusion of Hansa Rostock stopper Andreas Jakobsson caught the eye. Jakobsson, a solid League player, has never had a major role in the national team. At full-back, Christoffer Andersson's shaky start to the new season with Helsingborgs probably cost him his place.

Hakan Mild lost his battle against a groin injury, his place being taken by Pontus Farnerud, a promising but inexperienced player. The youngster is skilful, but not so strong in the tackle as Mild.

Jesper Blomqvist was always likely to miss out, despite strong domestic support. But many were surprised that Mattias Jonsson got the nod. The Brondby striker did his chances the power of good by scoring a hat-trick in a Danish League match with a Swedish spy in attendance. Andreas Andersson of AIK was included ahead of Stefan Selakovic, probably because of his experience and reliability.

Pentti Hietanen

2002 FIFA WORLD CUP KOREA JAPAN

UPDATE

ITALY

Blues for Baggio

GIOVANNI TRAPATTONI did not even wait for the questions. Addressing his opening news conference on the first day of Italy's World Cup training camp, the coach immediately declared: "OK, from this moment on, I want to finish off one piece of business. As of tomorrow, I'm not answering any more questions about Roberto Baggio."

Yes, indeed, the all too conspicuous absence of the Little Prince represented the only controversial note emanating from Trapattoni's entirely predictable (and logical) choices for his squad. The coach had made those choices against the background of a nationwide outbreak of 'Baggio-Fever', prompted by yet another remarkable comeback from the 35-year-old veteran. Just 11 weeks after undergoing surgery on a cruciate ligament in his left knee, he returned to the Brescia side on the third last day of the Serie A season to score two goals.

The remarkable reality is that while that celebrated ponytail may be a little greying and while the knees may have seen as many surgeons' scalpels as full-backs' boots, nothing can detract from the undying affection many Italian football fans feel for Baggio.

Partly for sentimental reasons, no doubt, 80-90 per cent of those consulted in opinion polls on TV and radio, in newspapers and on myriad websites said that they wanted to see Baggio included.

Four MPs from Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party even called on the Minister for Sport, Giuliano Urbani, to intervene and ensure that Baggio be called up.

Public clamour notwithstanding, though, there had never been any real mystery about that final decision. With such as Totti, Vieri, Del Piero, Montella, Delvecchio and Inzaghi all in excellent form, there was never any realistic chance that Trapattoni would offload one of them to make way for Baggio.

Out of it...Roberto Baggio

Trapattoni said: "Until the injury, he was right up there in my calculations. Baggio didn't play at Euro 2000, he didn't play in our qualifiers. I'm sorry for him and I've told him so. But I have decided to rely on a tried and trusted group of players."

Did this also mean a first, painful rupture with Italian public opinion for Trapattoni, a coach much liked and admired in Italy?

"I don't know. If I manage to get 50 per cent of Italians on my side, then I'm not doing badly. Indeed, that's about as well as you can do," replied a smiling Trapattoni.

Paddy Agnew

'If I manage to get 50 per cent of Italians on my side, I won't be doing badly'

– Giovanni Trapattoni

ECUADOR

Surprises for Ayovi and Guagua

COACH Hernan Dario Gomez has formed a tightly-knit group, so there was little scope for surprises in his squad. Nevertheless, eyebrows were raised by one absence and one inclusion.

Out is Jorge Guagua, who starred at last year's World Youth Cup. It is a surprise that he has not been taken along, if only for the experience. Of more immediate concern is the fact that it leaves Ecuador with just three centre-backs and a squad that looks top-heavy with midfielders.

Among these is Walter Ayovi, whose inclusion was not widely expected. Not for any lack of ability; he is full of talent and can fill any position on the left. But he has been hit by both scandal and inactivity.

While known as Walter Corozo, he was caught playing under false documents that knocked three years off his age. He returned after serving a six-month suspension but then this year fell out with his club side, Emelec, and missed their Libertadores Cup campaign. He made peace shortly before the World Cup squad was named, but has little football behind him.

Other than that it is business as usual – with the entire country hanging on news of Agustin Delgado's knee injury.

Tim Vickery

CROATIA

Jozic goes with the flow

MARKO BABIC and Goran Sablic were the two unlucky players to be cut from Mirko Jozic's preliminary 25-man squad for the finals.

Both had been surprise inclusions, with Sablic called in to replace the injured Juventus defender Igor Tudor.

Panathinaikos midfielder Danijel Saric, who had an impressive second half of the season in Greece, was a surprise call-up.

Jozic has announced his intention to quit his post after the World Cup to return to Colo Colo in Chile. Jozic won three League titles and the Libertadores Cup in his previous spell with the Santiago club.

John Holmesdale

MEXICO

Unimpressive despite victories

MEXICO prepared for their trip to Japan with warm-up victories over Colombia, a makeshift Milan side and Bolivia. In their final game before, leaving for Japan, Mexico pulled off a narrow 1-0 win over Bolivia in San Francisco thanks to a goal from substitute Francisco Palencia.

A few days earlier, against Colombia, the players were jeered by sections of the Azteca stadium crowd despite winning 2-1.

The federation was criticised for publishing its World Cup schedule on its website. It indicated that the Mexicans had booked flights home immediately after the end of the first round.

John Holmesdale

GROUP G

GROUP H

JAPAN

Nakayama in from the cold

COACH Philippe Troussier pulled two France 98 veterans out of the hat when he named his final squad. Jubilo Iwata striker Masashi Nakayama, 34, who scored Japan's only goal of the last finals, had not played for Troussier this year. Kashima Antlers defender Yutaka Akita had not had a game since September 1999, against Iran.

Two poor defensive performances in May's friendlies against Honduras and Norway, with three goals conceded apiece, appear to have concentrated the manager's mind. Akita is the tight marker and rugged tackler whom Troussier usually cites when he describes his own former playing style, but the Frenchman has mostly preferred to use skilful ball players in defence until now.

Nakayama's inclusion was less surprising in view of the sickness crisis in Japan's forward line. Naohiro Takahara developed blood clots in the lungs on the flight back from Poland and did not recover in time. Akinori Nishizawa was also then felled by appendicitis during the team's preparations in Spain. He made the final selection, but questions remain. Tatsuhiko Kubo was left out after failing to impress in the friendlies in May.

The most high-profile omissions were Shunsuke Nakamura and Hiroshi Nanami, squeezed out from the left side of midfield, and Yasuhiro Hato, who was edged out of right midfield. But defender Ryuzo Morioka was included, having recovered from a hamstring injury.

Mike Plastow

Time of need...Masashi Nakayama

'Akita is the tight marker and rugged tackler whom Troussier usually cites when describing his own former playing style'

RUSSIA

Shock recall for Cherchesov

VETERAN goalkeeper Stanislav Cherchesov was the big surprise in the final World Cup squad of 23. The 38-year-old last played for Russia against Israel in February 2000, when he conceded four goals.

Andrei Arshavin (Zenit), Denis Laktionov (Suwon Bluewings), Andrei Karyaka (Kryliya Sovetov) and Omari Tetradze (Alaniya) were the players who were cut from Romantsev's preliminary 27-man squad.

There was no place in the squad either for CSKA Moscow's promising midfielder Rolan Gusev, but Igor Semshov of Torpedo Moscow did make the final cut.

John Holmesdale

TUNISIA

El Ouaer quits

THE shock decision of goalkeeper Chokri El Ouaer to retire ahead of the World Cup finals threw Tunisia into further turmoil after an already 'annus horribilis'. El Ouaer said a back injury had made playing too painful and pulled out of the squad a month after coach Henri Michel had walked out on the team.

Tunisia appointed the unheralded Ammar Souayeh and Khemais Laabidi to take charge as co-coaches after Michel's departure, which he blamed on interference from the federation chiefs.

The new coaches have, after much experimentation, gone with a familiar looking squad, bringing back the likes of Raouf Bouzaiene and Kaies Ghodhbane whom Michel had dropped after a disappointing African Nations Cup tournament in January.

Mark Gleeson

BELGIUM

Waseige calls it a day

THE injury-hit Belgians departed for Japan knowing that coach Robert Waseige will not be in charge of the national team after the World Cup. Waseige announced he is returning to former club Standard Liege.

Key men Joos Valgaeren, Emile Mpenza, Walter Baseggio and Philippe Clement were all ruled out by injury. Stefaan Tanghe was the highest-profile omission.

Michael Goossens, Marc Hendrikx and Peter Van Houdt were also left out by Waseige, who included Gent defender Jacky Peeters and midfielders Gaetan Englebert (Club Brugge) and Bernd Thijs (Genk).

John Holmesdale

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Keir Radnedge
COMMENTARY

Unsightly battle...the presidential scrap between Johansson (left) and Blatter made the headlines before France 98

Order, please!

After a chaotic election, it's time for FIFA and the federations to sort themselves out

THE first task for FIFA after the World Cup is to get to grips with a unified international calendar for football politicians.

Four years ago, it was bad enough for the game to have FIFA presidential candidates Sepp Blatter and Lennart Johansson scrapping their way across the headlines in the run-up to France 98. The sight of Blatter and Issa Hayatou repeating the electioneering horror in the run-up to Korea/Japan has almost been beyond belief. Never mind FIFA's finances; the greatest damage has been incurred by the worldwide game itself.

FIFA must shift the presidential election away from World Cup year. The structure is there. The governing body holds its Congress every two years. Its presidential election should be switched to the 'in-between' Congress. As it happens, 2004 would be an ideal time to make the change: FIFA is planning a major revision of its statutes to mark the body's centenary – and switching the election should be top of the list.

It also behoves FIFA and the regional confederations to line up their own statutes and meeting schedules.

CONCACAF re-elected Jack Warner as president earlier this spring after Mexico's Edgardo Codesal was barred from standing because of his paid role as that body's refereeing supremo. Paid officials cannot stand for CONCACAF office; however, CONCACAF's own general secretary, Chuck Blazer, is a member of the FIFA executive because FIFA statutes do NOT bar paid officials. Plainly a nonsense that needs to be addressed.

Further, we had the ludicrous sight of UEFA Congress voting in new executive members and delegates to the FIFA executive – but who could not take their place until after FIFA Congress. The significance was that the UEFA elections tilted the balance of power within the FIFA executive towards Blatter but could not take immediate effect.

Only when FIFA and its confederations have aligned their statutes and unified their procedures and calendars may they lecture the rest of the game about 'transparency'.

'Never mind FIFA's finances; the greatest damage has been incurred by the worldwide game itself'

Fans forgotten at downsized Hampden

"YOU don't see scorelines like 7-3 in Finals any more," said Francisco Gento, Madrid's flying left-winger from 1960, on the eve of his return to Glasgow.

Nor do you see stadia like the old Hampden. The reincarnation of Scotland's national stadium is a strange mixture of the old and the new, the great old name labelling a minimalist single circuit of spectators.

Cynically, you cannot help but wonder what UEFA's choice of a 'mere' 52,000-capacity venue says about the relative importance afforded to the 'live' fans compared with their armchair cousins.

Had Manchester United, for example, qualified for the Final, the squeals of fury at their restricted ticket allocation would have been heard all the way over on the banks of Lake Geneva.

At least there was room in the stadium for both FIFA president Sepp Blatter and UEFA leader Lennart Johansson, albeit diplomatically separated in the VIP box by Spain's King Juan Carlos.

Celtic bid reined in by UEFA

SCOTLAND and Ireland's bid to host the 2008 European Championship finals is probably not the favourite.

In that context, the Scots were disappointed if not surprised that UEFA kept a tight rein on their activities around the Champions League Final.

No promotional balloons, no high-profile media presentations, no marketing slogans around the stadium; any of that would have allowed Scotland/Ireland an advantage not available to the assorted nations competing in one alliance or another.

At least the campaign will not drag on like the World Cup hosting bids. Organisational proposals must be with UEFA within the next month or so, to be followed by an inspection visit in September and decision in December.

Right now, the joint bid from Austria and Switzerland is narrow favourite.

The appliance of science

IF Valerii Lobanovskyi ever smiled, then he kept it a secret from the media. The impression was that the late coach of Ukraine and Kyiv Dynamo took literally Bill Shankly's dictum about football being more important than life or death.

Lobanovskyi was far and away the most successful coach in the history of Soviet and then Ukrainian football. Two Cup-winners Cups, in 1975 and 1986, were the international peak of achievements that included long-term domination of the domestic game both sides of the collapse of the USSR.

But Lobanovskyi's credo also contained the weakness that prevented him parading World Cups, European Championships and Champions Cups. The coach, briefly an international outside-left for the Soviet Union in the late 1950s, was the ultimate soccer scientist.

The wonderful Dynamo training centre is his infrastructural legacy. No coach in the history of the top-level game worked as assiduously as Lobanovskyi to reduce the margin for human error on the pitch. No facet of the game escaped his study – fitness, tactics, technique or team psychology.

Lobanovskyi was so successful that the Soviet federation used his Dynamo players for not only the national team but the Olympic side as well. But in the end, like every machine, it wore out. Lobanovskyi's scientific creations were all betrayed in the end by the football equivalent of metal fatigue.

The best example was in the 1988 European Championship finals in West Germany. Lobanovskyi's Soviets beat Holland 1-0 in their opening match, and he expected a repeat when they were matched again in the Final. However, a second yellow card in the semi-final victory over Italy denied him the services of stopper Oleg Kuznetsov.

The defence lost its cohesion, midfield lost its discipline and Holland won 2-0. Whether Marco Van Basten would have been given all that time and space to strike his wonderful winning volley had Kuznetsov been standing on his toes is open to doubt.

But football is like that. It's not an exact science. At the highest level, so little separates teams that individual genius makes all the difference.

Lobanovskyi was a pioneer of scientific soccer whose greatest achievement was in developing the formula that lifted Dynamo into the game's premier category.

Pioneer...Valerii Lobanovskyi

Madrid 9 Manchester 2

SIR ALEX FERGUSON'S determination to drive Manchester United back to the European peak will have been enhanced by the disappointment at missing out on a triumphant return to his Glasgow home.

But the perception of Ferguson as some sort of impregnable superman(ager) has been tweaked, at the least, by the no-holds-barred book by Michael Crick, by Arsenal's Premiership takeover in front of the Old Trafford faithful, and by the media's revelation of Ferguson's four-letter tirade over the Juan Veron issue.

Lean year...Ferguson was denied the European Cup

Perhaps a few lessons might be learnt beyond Old Trafford, however. Let's be spared any more of the hype about United as the world's most wonderful, all-conquering club. Commercially, they may be just that – but what does it mean when a glance at the records shows Real Madrid with nine Champions Cups and United with two. After all, without meaning to be rude, even Nottingham Forest won the ultimate club prize twice.

United's commercial power matters only to the extent that it is put to use winning matches: it is not the end in itself, only the means to an end – and an end that went unfulfilled this past season.

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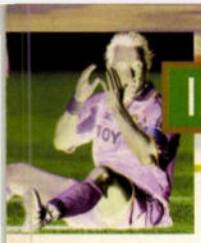


The bust after the boom

FOOTBALL'S financial crisis is truly global. As the reports over the following pages show, the game is experiencing the bust after the boom, from Latin America to Europe, from the English Football League to Italy's Serie A.

A major consequence of the global media recession is consolidation among media companies: Germany's stricken Kirch Group will probably be bought by Rupert Murdoch or Silvio Berlusconi, or both in partnership; in Italy, Stream and Telepiu are set to merge; and in Spain, Via Digital and Canal Satelite Digital look set to go the same way after disappointing subscriber growth.

The main driving force behind the increase in the price of football TV rights has been competition between broadcasters. So it would seem logical that less competition will lead to a fall in values. How football deals with the resulting fall in income will be the major issue facing the sport in the coming years.

The fall in football's income comes after years of spiralling costs. The 1995 Bosman ruling not only gave players more freedom, but also it dramatically increased their earning power as clubs paid in wages what they saved in transfer fees. The new international transfer regulations look set to accelerate the process of player aggrandisement, at least at the top of the game.

At the lower levels, the decline of the transfer market is set to deny clubs the financial lifeline of selling homegrown players. In Holland and Belgium, two countries where clubs have traditionally supplemented their relatively low domestic television incomes with the regular sale of players, the crisis has led to talk of mergers of both leagues and clubs.

The new regulations have also exacerbated the crisis in the English Football League as the imposition of transfer windows has seriously inhibited clubs' ability to sell players to recoup some of the money lost through the collapse of ITV Digital. Latin American clubs have for years covered operating losses by selling their best players to Europe, particularly Italy and Spain, but those markets are in danger of drying up.

The crisis is not only economic; it is also political. While the following reports focus on steps clubs can take to alleviate the effects of the financial crisis, there is a need for firm leadership from the governing bodies, from FIFA down to the leagues by way of the confederations and national federations.

Sadly, that appears to be lacking. FIFA is mired in internal politics and allegations of corruption, with the confederations seemingly more interested in jockeying for power than addressing fundamental issues.

True, UEFA has come up with its licensing system, but implementation will be left up to national federations, most of whom seem unwilling to stand up to their most powerful clubs.

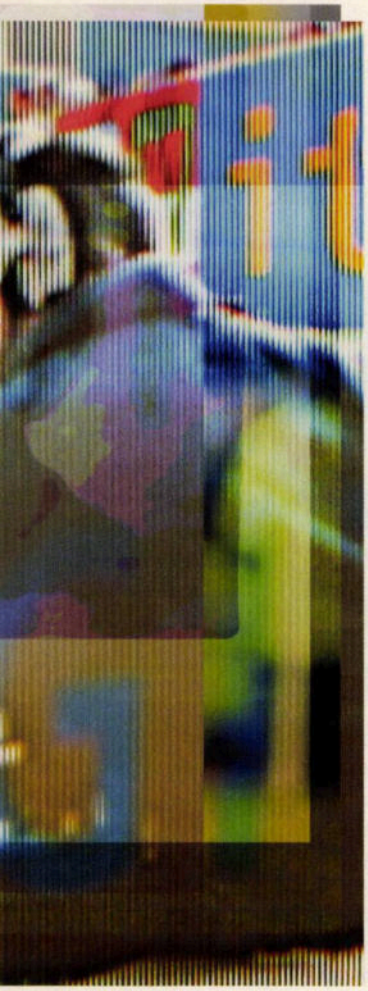
> 'Players, among the chief beneficiaries of football's boom, must be prepared to accept the consequences of its economic decline'

Players' unions, meanwhile, seem preoccupied with protecting their members' narrow self-interests rather than contemplating changes that may be for the good of the game as a whole.

There can be no doubt that players and their agents have been the chief beneficiaries of football's boom; they must now be prepared to accept some of the consequences of its economic decline. The ostrich-like attitude of England's players' union, the PFA, which would rather see clubs go out of business than allow them to release

What goes up, must come

Football's TV rights boom is well and truly over. Simon Banks explains why, while over the following pages, Oliver Butler outlines the measures clubs must take to survive



down

players before their contracts have expired, may sit well with its current membership. But whether the hundreds of footballers who will find themselves out of work as a consequence will be as grateful for the union's intransigence remains to be seen.

Football's financial crisis is deep and widespread, and requires a co-ordinated response from all sections of the game. Whether that response is forthcoming will determine its future, or rather, whether it has one at all.

Simon Banks is the author of Going Down: Football in Crisis, *to be published by Mainstream Sport in July*

Survival of the fittest

THE goose of pay-TV, that has been laying golden eggs for the major leagues around Europe since the mid-1990s, is looking decidedly sick.

During the boom years, European clubs enjoyed hefty increases in their TV income, which for many was their main source of revenue. In 1999, Barcelona and Real Madrid signed five-year TV deals (for 2003-08) worth in excess of £50m per annum. In the same year, Italian pay-TV operators Stream and Telepiu negotiated individual deals with Serie A clubs, yielding the top ones more than £20m annually.

In 2000, in what BBC director general Greg Dyke described as "one week when the world went mad", a deal was signed for English Premiership rights worth in excess of £1.6billion over three years; record deals for the FA and Football League (FL) quickly followed.

In the same year in Germany, Kirch agreed to pay £960m over four years for the rights to the Bundesliga.

TV rights to football games had become the most valuable form of content available to pay-TV companies keen to attract subscribers – and they were prepared to pay top dollar to secure them.

But something had to give. Already, many of the rights holders have run into financial difficulties; some have even gone bust. The extra subscriber revenue has failed to justify the price paid for the rights. Many, like UK firm ITV Digital, simply paid too much for inferior products which failed to attract enough subscribers.

With less competition for the rights when they come up for renewal in the future, their value will decline. Clubs have been forced to look at ways of increasing their income and of reducing their costs in order to stop the haemorrhaging of cash.

Alex Fynn, a former consultant to the English FA and one of the architects of the Premier League, sums up the situation facing clubs across Europe and further afield. "The priority for clubs is to recognise that they are poorly run businesses," he says. "They all spend too much on costs as compared to income."

As the pay-TV boom has turned sour, some of those poorly run clubs are perilously close to going under. In Italy, Fiorentina, one of the best-supported clubs in the country, have been relegated to Serie B after selling off several players in a desperate bid to avoid bankruptcy.

In England, several Football League clubs have already gone into administration following the collapse of ITV Digital. Bradford City recently became the first Division One club to call in the administrators.

Fynn believes that English clubs, while more developed commercially than their continental rivals, need to look at restructuring competitions in order to reduce costs. He sees the Premier League that he helped to create as too exclusive.

"You can't measure football's strength by 20 clubs alone," Fynn asserts. "The Premier League has all the money and hype, and this creates an imbalance. We should follow the German model – if there are around 40 clubs that matter [there are 38 clubs in Bundesligas 1 and 2] you create more fluidity."

Fynn calls for the creation of a 'Premier League II', something many of the bigger Football League clubs have long advocated, though he doesn't expect this to happen because "the Premier League is not interested in the game as a whole".

Given the unwillingness of the Premier League to share its booty more widely, Fynn believes the Football League should create two national and three regional divisions, thus reducing costs for the smallest clubs and creating more local derbies to boost public interest.

The greater fluidity in other European leagues is demonstrated by the success of Chievo in Serie A this season, and by clubs like Auxerre and Troyes in France.

"If Crewe Alexandra [recently relegated to Division Two] were French they'd be like Auxerre, an established top-flight club," says Fynn.

The English League system may be flawed, but

> 'The extra subscriber revenue has failed to justify the price paid for TV rights; ITV Digital, for example, simply paid too much for inferior products'

English clubs remain better placed to survive the end of the TV rights boom than other European clubs. In England, TV money accounts for 40 per cent of total revenue at most, whereas a small German club such as Hansa Rostock depend on TV money for more than 50 per cent of their annual turnover of £20m.

One solution for clubs in Italy, Spain and Germany is to develop themselves commercially to reduce their over-reliance on TV revenue, and move towards a more equitable distribution of TV money.

Outside of TV rights, the main revenue stream for clubs is gate receipts. It would thus appear inevitable for clubs to push up ticket prices for next season. Whether fans will accept these rises remains unclear.

Many clubs in Europe have yet to match the sophistication of their English counterparts in their development of merchandising and other off-the-field revenue sources. Nor has the internet provided them with the large sums that they all hoped.

So for many clubs, the only way to maintain their levels of revenue is to go back to their TV rights and seek to maximise the revenue from them.

For clubs in leagues where TV deals are negotiated collectively, there is the possibility that all or part of the

rights could revert to the clubs, allowing them to go out and sell them to the highest bidder. This would be an advantage for the big clubs.

In England, it is widely expected that the likes of Manchester United, Liverpool and Arsenal will seek to sell the international rights to their games on an individual basis when the next TV deal is negotiated.

In Italy and Spain, where clubs already negotiate individually with TV stations, this system has become a liability for many smaller clubs, especially since soon there may no longer be two rival pay-TV channels for clubs to play off against each other.

The big five Italian clubs – Juventus, Milan, Inter, Lazio and Roma – will not be greatly affected as they have enough power and popularity to force the one pay-TV provider to maintain rights values. As for Real Madrid and Barcelona, they have already signed deals guaranteeing high levels of TV revenue through to 2008. But smaller Spanish clubs will lose out.

Whatever the income they derive from TV, clubs must now start to address the difficulty they have had in spending it wisely. The biggest drain on revenue in the past 10 years has been player wages. It is judged to be good financial management when a club spend no more than 60 per cent of their revenue on player wages, yet it is safe to say only around 10 per cent of top-flight clubs around the world fit this bill.

While the levels of TV income have increased, wages have risen by even more. Clubs have overstretched themselves in attempting to buy success by taking on too many costly players, who are then locked into the club by long-term contracts.

Of course, the logical answer is for clubs to dramatically cut back their spending on players. This has already started in the lower divisions in England and Scotland, where out-of-contract players have been laid off, while those signing new deals have been forced to do so on lower wages.

While clubs should impose this 60 per cent wage-to-turnover ratio on themselves and adhere to it as much as possible, the reality is that many are unable or unwilling to do so while other clubs continue to overspend on wages and transfer fees.

It is in this context that the issue of salary caps has come to the fore as a way out of the crisis. Salary caps – restricting the spending levels of clubs to a certain percentage of their revenue – is a system that is used in the United States for basketball and for Major League Soccer. It has also been introduced for minor sports in Europe.

The first league to see the introduction of a salary cap might be Italy. A report recently leaked to *La Gazzetta dello Sport* revealed that the 18 Serie A clubs made a combined loss of £82.3m in the 2000-01 season. Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti has been a leading advocate of a salary cap, describing it as "the only possible way to save our football".

Downed...Fiorentina sold several players in a desperate bid to avoid bankruptcy; relegation ensued

A four-man taskforce led by Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani proposed last year that from the 2003-04 season, clubs be barred from spending more than 80 per cent of their revenue on salaries, and that their playing squads be restricted to 25 players.

The G-14 of leading European clubs has recently agreed to adopt a common stance on measures to cut costs, including the introduction of performance-related pay. The group has resolved to present a concrete proposal for its pan-European system of cost controls at its next meeting in Monaco in August.

> 'A salary cap has been described by Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti as "the only possible way to save our football"'

However, G-14 general manager Thomas Kurth has previously made it clear that the organisation will not force its members to adopt the measures. "We may make some recommendations, but it will then be up to individual clubs what to do," he said.

And salary caps remain beset with other problems. The system in the US has been open to abuse, and there are fears that clubs will get round the limit by making payments to players through third-party companies that do not constitute wage payments.

Furthermore, one could argue that salary caps help to protect the status quo. Smaller clubs would be unable to be 'rescued' by a rich tycoon, such as Mohammed Al-Fayed at Fulham. A salary cap based on a percentage of turnover would mean that the big clubs could continue to spend large sums, while smaller clubs would have much less to spend.

Above all, there also remains the threat of a legal challenge under European law.

The system also requires effective policing. The experience from Italy, where COVISOC – the Italian regulatory authority – has been unable to prevent Fiorentina's slide into debt, makes one sceptical about the feasibility of an Italian salary cap.

This may change with the introduction of the licensing system proposed by UEFA. In order to qualify for European competition, clubs will be forced to file proper financial accounts, and to demonstrate their solvency through the regular payment of wages.

"The aim is not to exclude clubs from playing in European competitions, but rather to help them achieve a certain quality level in the criteria categories that we have set up," says UEFA chief executive Gerhard Aigner.

After a few years of this rather loose model, UEFA is hoping to make the system much broader and deeper. It could then be used as a framework for the imposition of a salary cap for clubs competing in European competitions. However, such a development is many years down the line.

The TV bubble has not burst for good. There will be a resurgence in TV rights at some time in the future as football, especially at the top level, remains a big attraction. Furthermore, many clubs will be seeking to boost revenues through the internet broadcasting of matches.

So, while revenues will rise once more, the most important issue remains how the clubs manage these revenues. The lessons of the current downturn must be learnt in order for football to prosper in the future.

Oliver Butler is editor of Soccer Investor

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Tough times...some German clubs face ruin

CASE STUDY

Germany

Clubs threatened by Kirch collapse

THE German Bundesliga is waiting nervously for the next instalment from their TV rights deal. Without the money, it will be extremely difficult for many of the 38 clubs to honour the payment of their players' wages over the next two seasons.

Some clubs could go out of business in the next calendar year, unless the rights holder, Kirch, the financially stricken media company, honours instalment payments of £63m due in mid-May and mid-August, and then hands back the rights to be resold. Needless to say, these will not fetch anything near their current value.

Other clubs have put all spending on hold, as many of them rely on TV revenue for almost half of their total annual turnover.

It is easy to say in hindsight that Kirch overpaid when it agreed a four-year contract worth £960m. Germany has the largest TV audience in Europe (80m compared to the 50-60m in the other four major European league countries), and fewer than half the number of professional clubs in England and Italy. However, Kirch, which finally filed for bankruptcy for its main operating unit KirchMedia (which comprises the company's rights activities) in April, had been treading a dangerous line for some time. It is no surprise that its debts – an estimated £5.7bn – have caught up with them.

While the 2002 and 2006 World Cup rights, also owned by Kirch, had been safely moved to a Swiss subsidiary a month previously, the Bundesliga was not so lucky. A proposal from German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder to provide state guarantees for loans to help out clubs in financial difficulty proved unpopular with government ministers and the general public.

CASE STUDY

South America

Investors cut their losses as the crisis deepens

LATIN AMERICAN football has been on a roller-coaster ride over the past few years. Companies such as US investment firm Hicks, Muse, Tate & Furst and ISL staked millions of dollars on a bright future that spectacularly failed to materialise.

Hicks, Muse and Muller Sports Group set up the Pan-American Sports group of companies in 1999, with a division devoted to managing teams (Brazilian clubs Corinthians and Cruzeiro were signed up in costly multi-year partnership deals) and a 24-hour pan-Latin America sports channel. ISL invested millions in partnerships with Brazilian clubs Flamengo and Gremio, and this ill-judged investment was cited as a factor in the subsequent collapse of ISL/ISMM.

Argentina, which traditionally has had by far South America's strongest league, has been in the grip of a devastating economic crisis. This has exacerbated the problems of already debt-ridden clubs, and players have been forced to take strike action over unpaid wages. Just as in Europe, the crisis came about after a period of expansion fuelled by lucrative new media deals. In 2000, the Libertadores Cup was expanded by 12 teams to 32 and a total prize money fund of £25.5m was confirmed, of which the champions would win £2.5m, while each team were guaranteed a minimum £320,000. These funds were provided thanks to a lucrative TV deal with Argentinian company Torneos y Competencias (TyC) – which was taken over in 2000 by Hicks, Muse – and Brazilian company Traffic (also part of the Pan-American Sports group), plus a £1.3m sponsorship deal with Toyota.

The following year, with the Argentinian economy in freefall, TyC and Traffic were forced to ask the South American confederation, CONMEBOL, to let them cut payments to clubs participating in the Libertadores.

This year, Hicks, Muse is talking about 'restructuring' its Brazilian investments. With the Pan-American Sports venture under threat, Fox Sports International and Liberty Media came to the rescue, setting up Fox Pan American Sports LLC, a joint venture with Hicks, Muse that will have access to the sports content owned by Pan-American Sports.

Bad investment...ISL's partnership with Gremio (in blue) was ill-judged

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CASE STUDY

England

Paying the price for the crazy summer of 2000

ENGLAND was the first European country to enjoy the pay-TV boom in football rights values. The boom reached its zenith in the crazy summer of 2000, when the Premier League signed a three-year package of deals worth £1.6m and the Football League struck its ill-fated £315m deal with ITV Digital.

Carlton and Granada's digital terrestrial platform, previously known as ONdigital, was relaunched last year in a blaze of publicity. Adverts for the revamped service proudly proclaimed that ITV Digital was "the new home of football", with more live games than Sky. However, earlier this year ITV Digital announced its intention to renegotiate its deal with the FL. Of the £178.5m still owed to the FL clubs, it said it was only prepared to pay £50m.

ITV Digital has since gone into liquidation, and the FL clubs have received nothing. The legal arguments could rumble on for years, but the fact remains that with the TV gravy train off the rails, many FL clubs face an uncertain future. According to a recent study, at least 600 players will be out of work in the summer.

No one is suggesting that there is a threat to the Premier League's TV deals with Sky and ITV, which are worth £1.27bn and run to the end of the 2003-04 season. But many Premier League clubs have continued to make huge losses. Newcastle lost £18.9m in the 1999-00 season, a record for an English club until Fulham reported a loss of £23.3m for 2000-01. Leeds, who have failed to qualify for the Champions League for the second season running, have borrowed £60m against future gate receipts, a debt it will have to pay off for the next 25 years.

No way...Chievo and Brescia oppose the pay-TV merger

CASE STUDY

Italy & Spain

Small clubs suffer as TV rivals merge

IN both Italy and Spain, clubs have been able to sell their media rights on an individual basis, and rights values have been pushed up by the existence of two rival pay-TV platforms.
In Italy, Stream, owned by Telecom Italia and Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, was launched in 1998 to compete with Telepiu, owned by Vivendi Universal's pay-TV subsidiary Canal Plus. In Spain, the two pay-TV platforms are Via Digital and Canal Satelite Digital.

Since 1997, when Spanish clubs gained the right to individually negotiate their TV deals, Via Digital and Canal Satelite Digital have lost an estimated £223.4m on their coverage of football. In Italy, where the collective selling of TV rights was abolished in 1999, Telepiu and Stream have made similar losses. Stream's latest results revealed debts of £372m.

In Italy, the prevalence of digital TV piracy (it has been estimated that up to two million Italians have gained access to pay-TV without paying for it) and the proliferation of football on free-to-air TV have also had a negative impact. In Spain, resistance to pay-TV on the part of consumers and poor cable penetration have led to low subscriber numbers.

In both countries, a merger of the rival loss-making platforms has been agreed (in Italy, Telepiu has agreed to take over Stream), though both deals are not certain to go ahead because of regulatory concerns.

But if the mergers do eventually go ahead, a lack of competition will depress rights values and the smaller clubs will suffer the most. With many clubs' TV deals expiring this summer, some of the smaller clubs have formed consortia to protect their interests.

The 'Plus Media Trading' consortium, which includes Serie A clubs such as Brescia and Chievo and Serie B clubs such as Modena and Vicenza, and 'A-B Italian partners', a consortium of Serie B clubs, have submitted a petition to anti-trust authorities setting out their objections to Telepiu's takeover of Stream.

Loss leaders...Fulham broke Newcastle's deficit record in 2000-01

WORLDSERVICE

INTERNATIONALS

Sunday, April 7

Apr 7 - Maseru - Cosafa Castle Cup, 1st rnd
Lesotho 0
Mozambique 2 (Mavo 10, Jossias 23)
HT: 0-2

Friday, April 12

Apr 12 - Addis Abeba - friendly
Ethiopia 3 (Shanko 51, Wolde-Yohannes 56, Anbesse 80)
Tanzania 0
HT: 0-0

Wednesday, April 17

Apr 17 - Andorra La Vella - friendly
Andorra 2 (E Gonzalez pen 33, Jimenez 63)
Albania 0
HT: 1-0
Sent off: Xhumba (Albania) 33min

Apr 17 - Vienna - friendly
Austria 0
Cameroon 0
Att: 32,100. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
Austria: Manninger - Baur, Feldhofer, Scharner, Herzog (Linz 88), Weissenberger (Dospel 90), Aufhauser, Panis (Holler 90), Wimmer (Kitzbichler 73), Wallner (Mayrleb 58), Vastic (Martin Hiden 63).
Cameroon: Songo'o (Kameni 46) - Mettomo, Song, Tchato, Etame-Mayer (Djemba-Djemba 72), Foe, Olembe (Ngom Kome 61), Njanka, Job (Suffo 46), Njitap, Eto'o (Kioyo 85).

Apr 17 - Brussels - friendly
Belgium 1 (Goor 55)
Slovakia 1 (Janocko 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Coue (Fra)
Belgium: Herpoel - Van Kerkhoven, De Boeck, Deflandre, Clement, Goor, Simons, Verheyen (Vanderhaeghe 75), Wilmots (Vermant 46), Sonck, Strupar (M Mpenza 46).
Slovakia: Bucek - Labant, Spilar, Kozak (Kratochvil 46), Reiter (Bencik 84), Janocko (Cisovsky 88), Dzurik, Vittek, Petras, Hlinka, Czinege (Fabus 76).

Apr 17 - Zagreb - friendly
Croatia 2 (Olic 44, Suker pen 52)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Messner (Aut)
Croatia: Pletikosa (Butina 60) - Zivkovic (Sablic 78), R Kovac, Simunic, Jarni (Seric 46), Soldo, Tomas, Prosinecki (N Kovac 46), Suker (Bosnjak 71), Vlaovic (Rapajic 60), Olic (Vugrinec 46).
Bosnia: Tolja - Duro (Hota 71), Konjic, Hibic, Papac, Salihamidzic (Topic 65), Akrapovic (Beganovic 83), Sabic (Biscevic 60), Music, Barbarez (Katic 76), Bolic (Muratovic 76).

Apr 17 - Copenhagen - friendly
Denmark 3 (Heintze 4, Tomasson 14, Rommedahl 37)
Israel 1 (Nimni pen 90)
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 9,598. **Ref:** Van Hulten (Hol)
Denmark: Sorensen - Bogelund, Heintze (N Jensen 80), Henriksen (T Frandsen 65), Laursen, Gravesen (Steen Nielsen 80), Poulsen (P Frandsen 71), Gronkjaer (Madsen 46), Tomasson (Lovenkrands 46), Rommedahl (Michaelsen 60), E Sand.
Israel: Strauber - Keisi, Benado, Ben Dayan (Tikva 46), Bachar, Abuksis, Harazi, Balili (Katan 64), Badir (Benayoun 46), Nimni, Ben-Ami (Rosen 46).

Apr 17 - Liverpool - friendly
England 4 (Owen 4, Murphy 47, Vassell 55, Ayala og 81)
Paraguay 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,713. **Ref:** Bolognino (Ita)
England: Seaman - G Neville (Carragher 68), Keown (Mills 46), Southgate (Sheringham 68), Bridge (P Neville 68), Butt (J Cole 46), Gerrard (Sinclair 46), Scholes (Fowler 46), Dyer (Murphy 46), Owen (Hargreaves 46), Vassell (Lampard 68).
Paraguay: Tavarelli - Arce, Ayala, Gamarra (J C Caceres 81), Caniza, Gavilan (Sarabia 57), Bonet (Morinigo 82), Struway, Paredes, Cardozo (Baez 60), Santa Cruz.

Apr 17 - Saint-Denis - friendly
France 0
Russia 0
Att: 78,294. **Ref:** Riley (Eng)
France: Barthez - Desailly, Thuram, Leboeuf (Christanval 46), Lizarazu (Candela 79), Petit (Boghossian 62), Vieira, Zidane, Djorkaeff (Marlet 62), Henry, Anelka (Micoud 82).
Russia: Nigmatullin - Nikiforov, Onopko, Sennikov, Dayev, Karpin, Mostovoi, Smertin, Titov, Izmailov, Beschastnykh (Sychev 66).

Apr 17 - Stuttgart - friendly
Germany 0
Argentina 1 (Sorin 47)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 54,570. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
Germany: Lehmann - Metzelder, Linke (Baumann 46), Nowotny, Bohme (Ricken 46), Ramelow, Ballack, Frings (Max 83), Jeremies (Kehl 77), Bierhoff (Jancker 70), Klose.
Argentina: Cavallero - Sorin, Aimar (Gallardo 31; Solari 64), Samuel, Pochettino, Zanetti, G Lopez (Saviola 77), Kily Gonzalez (Placente 89), Almeyda, Quiroga, Claudio Lopez.

Apr 17 - Ioannina - friendly
Greece 0
Czech Republic 0
Att: 9,000. **Ref:** Bertolini (Swi)

Apr 17 - Debrecen - friendly
Hungary 2 (Kenesei 13, M Feher pen 86)
Belarus 5 (Gleb 23, Kutuzov 29, 33, Khatskevich 45, Kachuro 76)
HT: 1-4. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Salomir (Rom)

Apr 17 - Milan - friendly
Italy 1 (Panucci 73)
Uruguay 1 (Abreu 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,773. **Ref:** Bre (Fra)
Italy: Buffon (Toldo 46) - Cannavaro (Bonera 76), Nesta, Panucci, Tacchinardi (Gattuso 46), Tommasi (Fiore 59), Zambrotta (Zanetti 76), Pessotto (Adani 7), Di Biagio (Ambrosini 59), Del Piero (Di Vaio 46), F Inzhagi (Montella 46).
Uruguay: Carini (Munua 63) - Mendez (Regueiro 74), Lembo (Guigou 46), Bizera, Rodriguez (Eguren 65), Varela (Forlan 74), Garcia (De los Santos 59), O'Neill (Perez 67), Magallanes (Olivera 65), Recoba (Abreu 59), D Silva (R Morales 59).

Apr 17 - Yokohama - friendly
Japan 1 (Myojin 69)
Costa Rica 1 (W Parks 76)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Huang (Chn)
Japan: Narazaki - K Nakata, Matsuda, Miyamoto (Nakamura 82), Ichikawa (Fukunishi 46), Ogasawara (Morishima 25), Myojin (Hato 80), Toda, Alex (Hattori 79), Yanagisawa (Nishizawa 28), T Suzuki (Kubo 86).
Costa Rica: Lonnis - Wright, Marin (Madrigal 46), Wallace (Vallejos 76), G Martinez, Rodriguez, M Solis, Lopez (Rojas 66), Centeno (Sanchez 76), Fonseca (W Parks 66), Gomez (Bryce 84).

Apr 17 - Ventspils - friendly
Latvia 2 (Zemlinskis pen 75, Stolcers 89)
Kazakhstan 1 (Shevchenko 45)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Malzinskas (Lit)

Apr 17 - Luxembourg - friendly
Luxembourg 3 (Strasser 39, Christophe 69, Cardoni 83)
Liechtenstein 3 (Martin Stocklasa 7, 25, 37)
HT: 1-3
Sent off: Gigon, M Beck (both Liechtenstein)

Apr 17 - Prilep - friendly
Macedonia 1 (Stavrevski 36)
Finland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Erdemir (Tur)

Apr 17 - Valletta - friendly
Malta 1 (Michael Mifsud 56)
Azerbaijan 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rosetti (Ita)

Apr 17 - East Rutherford, USA - friendly
Mexico 1 (Gabriel de Anda 90)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Saheli (USA)
Mexico: O Perez (J Campos 46) - Carmona, Brown, Marquez (Gabriel de Anda 87), Caballero (Arellano 62), Mercado (Luna 46), R Morales, Palencia (Johan Rodriguez 71), C Blanco (Borgetti 71), Torrado, L Hernandez.
Bulgaria: Gospadinov - Bachkov, Kirilov, G Petrov, Petkov, Peev (B Ivanov 83), Hristov (Trendafilov 83), Stilian Petrov, Yankovich (Todorov 46), Georgi Ivanov (Galin Ivanov 46), Yanchev. *Sent off: Kirilov 53min.*

Apr 17 - Belfast - friendly
Northern Ireland 0
Spain 5 (Raul 23, 54, Baraja 48, Puyol 68, Morientes 78)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 11,100. **Ref:** Clark (Sco)
Northern Ireland: Taylor (Carroll 46) - A Hughes, Williams, McCartney, Johnson, Gillespie (McCourt 77), Horlock, Healy, Elliott, Feeney (McEvilly 63), Nolan.
Spain: Canizares (Casillas 74) - Puyol, Hierro (Sergio 74), Nadal (Ivan Helguera 46), De Pedro (Valeron 46), Albelda (Curro Torres 46), Baraja, Joaquin (Mendieta 46), Morientes, Raul, Juanfran.

Apr 17 - Oslo - friendly
Norway 0
Sweden 0
Att: 20,759. **Ref:** Fisker (Den)
Norway: Myhre - Basma (E Bakke 58), H Berg (Borgersen 67), Bergdolmo, Hoftun, Riise (Pereira 90), Leonhardsen (Sorensen 67), Andersen, Carew (Flo 67), Solskjaer (R Strand 67), Iversen.
Sweden: Kihlstedt - Lucic (Antonelius 46), Mellberg, Mjallby (Jakobsson 74), Michael Svensson, Alexandersson (Andreas Andersson 74), Lantz (D Andersson 74), Larsson (Ibrahimovic 74), Linderoth, Ljungberg (Magnus Svensson 46), Allback (Selakovic 74).

Apr 17 - Bydgoszcz - friendly
Poland 1 (Hajto 86)
Romania 2 (Ganea 30, Mutu 36)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Baskakov (Rus)
Poland: Dudek - Klos (Kozminski 41), Hajto, Michal Zewlakow, Zielinski, Kaluzny, Krzynowek (Rzasa 46), Karwan (A Bak 46), Iwan (Kosowski 63), Kryszalowicz, Zurawski (Marcin Zewlakow 46).
Romania: Lobont - Gheorghe Popescu, Radoi, Iencsi, Soava (Dancia 90), Codrea, D Munteanu, Mutu (Niculescu 86), Ghioane (Baciu 84), Ganea (Petre 77), Dumitru (Chernat 65).

Apr 17 - Lisbon - friendly
Portugal 1 (Sergio Conceicao 60)
Brazil 1 (Ronaldinho pen 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Esquinas Torres (Spa)
Portugal: Ricardo - Jorge Costa, Fernando Couto (Jorge Andrade 46), Abel Xavier, Figo, Sergio Conceicao, Petit, Paulo Bento, Rui Jorge, Joao Pinto (Hugo Viana 61), Pauleta (Pedro Barbosa 88).
Brazil: Marcos - Cafu, Anderson Polga (Kleberson 61), Roberto Carlos, Lucio, Roque Junior, Gilberto Silva (Edilson 71), Emerson Ferreira, Ronaldinho, Ronaldo (Franca 46), Rivaldo (Denilson 59).

Apr 17 - Dublin - friendly
Rep Ireland 2 (Kinsella 6, Doherty 83)
United States 1 (Pope 34)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 39,000. **Ref:** Lueba (Swi)
Rep Ireland: Given - Harte (Staunton 46), O'Brien (Cunningham 46), Finnan (G Kelly 46), Breen (Doherty 71), Kilbane (Reid 46), Delap, Healy, Kinsella (Holland 46), Duff (Connolly 46), Robbie Keane (Morrison 83).
USA: Friedel (Keller 46) - Agoos, Pope, Berhalter (Vanney 46), Sanneh, Armas, Mathis (Wolff 64), O'Brien (Lewis 46), Reyna (Hejduk 72), Stewart (Donovan 46), McBride (Moore 46).

Apr 17 - Aberdeen - friendly
Scotland 1 (Dailly 7)
Nigeria 2 (Aghahowa 40, 68)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 20,465. **Ref:** Ovrebo (Nor)
Scotland: Douglas - Stockdale (G Alexander 46), Weir, Dailly, Crainey, McNaughton, Williams (Stewart 64), Lambert, Gemmill (Johnston 46), McCann (Caldwell 79), Thompson (O'Connor 74).
Nigeria: Ejide - Sodje (Ifejiagwa 85), Yobo, Okoronkwo, Christopher (Adepoju 79), Okocha, Ejiofor, Utaka (Ikedia 54), N Kanu, Aghahowa, Ogbeche.

Apr 17 - Ljubljana - friendly
Slovenia 1 (Pavlin 23)
Tunisia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,500. **Ref:** Trivkovic (Cro)
Slovenia: Dabanovic - Knavs (Sankovic 46), Galic, Gajser, Karic, Pavlin (Tiganj 75), A Ceh, Vugdalic, Rudonja, Osterc (Acimovic 46), Zahovic (Pavlovic 64).
Tunisia: Bejaoui - Badra, Jaidi (Ouertani 66), Mkademi, Hammi, Thabet (Jelassi 57), Baya (Ben Chouikha 64), Benachour (Ben Younes 85), Bouazizi, Mhadhebi (Clayton 46), Jaziri (Mkacher 57).

Apr 17 - Murcia, Spain - friendly
South Africa 0
Ecuador 0
Att: 6,000
South Africa: Arendse - Nzama, Jordan, Molefe, Mngomeni, Evans, Sibaya, Mukansi, Pienaar, Salmon (Dladla 58), Mabizelo.
Ecuador: Ibarra - I Hurtado, Poroso, De la Cruz, R Guerron, Obregon, Mendez, Chala, A Aguinaga (Delgado 46), J C Burbano, E Tenorio.

Apr 17 - Kerkrade, Holland - friendly
Turkey 2 (Hakan Sukur 30, Ilhan 81)
Chile 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Temmink (Hol)
Turkey: Omer (Zafer 86) - Bulent (Umit Ozat 68), Tayfun (Nihat 63), Tugay (Tayfur 64), Fatih Akyel, Emre Belozoglu (Umit Davala 85), Hakan Unsal (Abdullah 68), Ergun, Hakan Sukur (Arif 85), Ilhan, Emre Asik (Ogun 85).
Chile: Herrera - Contreras, Olarra, M Gonzalez, Schwedler, Acuna, Garcia (Sanhueza 79), Millar, Tello, H Tapia (Soto 69), Pardo (S Gonzalez 71).

Apr 17 - Kyiv - friendly
Ukraine 2 (Rebrov 17, Tymoshchuk 90)
Georgia 1 (Burduli 70)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)

Apr 17 - Smederevo - friendly
Yugoslavia 4 (Sasa Ilic 16, Kezman 35, 76, B Brnovic 87)
Lithuania 1 (R Zutautas 20)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Jakimovski (Mac)

Saturday, April 20

Apr 20 - Daegu - friendly
South Korea 2 (Cha Doo-Ii 26, Choi Tai-Uk 84)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Yoshida (Jap)
South Korea: Kim Byung-ji - Kim Tae-young (Hyun Young-min 67), Hong Myung-bo, Lee Min-sung (Choi Jin-chul 70), Song Chong-gug, Lee Eul-yong, Lee Young-pyo, Ahn Jung-hwan (Choi Sung-yong 79), Choi Tai-uk, Seol Ki-hyeon (Lee Chun-soo 78), Cha Doo-Ii.
Costa Rica: Mesen (Morgan 46) - Marin, Wright, Madrigal (Sanchez 46), Vallejos (Lopez 60), Rojas (Bryce 46), R Cordero (Wallace 75), Centeno (Gomez 64), Rodriguez (Esquivel 71), Fonseca, W Parks (M Solis 75).

Sunday, April 21

Apr 21 - Somhlalo - Cosafa Castle Cup, 1st rnd
Swaziland 2 (M Dlamini pen 20, 37)
Namibia 1 (Van Wyk 36)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Laforte (Moz)

Saturday, April 27

Apr 27 - Incheon - friendly
South Korea 0
China 0
Att: 47,223. **Ref:** Matsumura (Jap)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Choi Jin-chul, Hong Myung-bo, Kim Tae-young, Lee Eul-young (Yoo Sang-chul 64), Kim Nam-il, Park Ji-sung, Yoon Jong-hwan (Lee Young-pyo 64), Song Chong-gug (Choi Tai-uk 70), Seol Ki-hyeon (Lee Chun-soo 67), Choi Yong-soo.
China: Jiang Jin (An Qi 46) - Yang Pu, Li Weifeng, Zhang Enhua (Du Wei 66), Xu Yunlong, Zhao Junzhe (Li Ming 46), Li Tie, Fan Zhiyi (Shao Jiayi 73), Li Xiaopeng (Ma Mingyu 85), Qu Bo, Su Maozhen (Zhang Yuning 46).

Monday, April 29

Apr 29 - Tokyo - Kirin Cup
Japan 1 (Nishizawa 38)
Slovakia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 57,000. **Ref:** Bae (SKo)
Japan: Sogahata - Miyamoto, Matsuda, K Nakata, Morishima (Ogasawara 69), Alex (T Suzuki 62), Toda (Myojin 66), Nakamura, Inamoto (Fukunishi 46), Nishizawa (Kubo 66), Yanagisawa (Hato 55).
Slovakia: Bucek - Kozak (Hanek 76), Spilar, Vavrik, Cisovsky, Dzurik (Fabus 71), Kisel (Debnar 87), Mintal (Czinege 53), Talda, Bencik, Vittek (Ancic 73).

Thursday, May 2

May 2 - Kobe - Kirin Cup
Japan 3 (Nakamura 26, 41, Alex pen 76)
Honduras 3 (Jose Pineda 15, C Pavon 27, 45)
HT: 2-3. **Att:** 38,130. **Ref:** Park (SKo)
Japan: Narazaki - Hato (Ichikawa 46), Miyamoto, Matsuda, K Nakata, Morishima (Alex 46), Fukunishi, Nakamura (Ogasawara 77), Inamoto (Myojin 75), T Suzuki (Kubo 69), Nishizawa.
Honduras: Escober (J Morales 46) - Carcamo, S Caballero, Rosales (Izaguirre 90), R Morales, Bonilla (E Martinez 58), Alvarez, Jose Pineda, Turcios (Bernardez 69), M Suazo (Mendoza 79), C Pavon.

Saturday, May 4

May 4 - Lagos - friendly
Nigeria 3 (Ojigwe 49, Opabunmi 55, Oruma 87)
Kenya 0
HT: 0-0
Nigeria: Enyeama - Afolabi, Christopher, O Kanu (Baita), Sodje, Ejiofor (Olajengbesi), Ojigwe, Oruma, Opabunmi, Ugali, Akwuegbu (Odemwingie).

Sunday, May 5

May 5 - Harare - Cosafa Castle Cup, quarter-final
Zimbabwe 0
Swaziland 2 (Siza Dlamini 60, Sibusiso Dlamini 80)
HT: 0-0

Tuesday, May 7

May 7 - Caracas - friendly
Venezuela 0
Colombia 0
Att: 25,000. **Ref:** Solorzano (Ven)

Wednesday, May 8

May 8 - East Rutherford, USA - friendly
Ecuador 1 (Delgado 69)
Yugoslavia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,540. **Ref:** Grady (USA)
Ecuador: Cevallos - Poroso, I Hurtado, De la Cruz, Obregon, R Guerron, A Aguinaga, Delgado, Chala (C Tenorio 46), Mendez, E Tenorio (Fernandez 61). *Sent off: C Tenorio.*
Yugoslavia: Jervic (Poleksic 90) - Mirkovic, Mihajlovic, Stefanovic, Lazetic, Jokanovic, D Stankovic, Krstajic, V Ivic (Dragutinovic 61), Sasa Ilic (N Brnovic 61), Mijatovic (B Brnovic 88). *Sent off: D Stankovic 41min, Stefanovic 69min.*

May 8 - Pecs - friendly
Hungary 0
Croatia 2 (Dardai og 12, N Kovac 23)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Stuchlik (Aut)
Hungary: Kiraly (Babos 46) - Dragoner, Juhar, Low, Bodog (Korolovszky 11), Pinter (Rosa 55), Sowunmi (Boor 74), Toth (Kuttor 89), Dardai, Waltner (Gera 46), Tokoli (M Feher 59).
Croatia: Butina (Vasilj 67) - Saric, Sablic, Simunic, Jarni (Babic 46), Leko (Prosinecki 78), Tapalovic, N Kovac, Vugrinec (Olic 59), T Maric (Petric 46), Rapajic (Agic 64).

Thursday, May 9

May 9 - San Jose - friendly
Costa Rica 1 (Centeno pen 53)
Colombia 2 (Castillo pen 39, 42)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Jimenez (CR)
Costa Rica: Mesen (Morgan 46) - Marin (R Parks 69), G Martinez, Drummond (Wright 46), Vallejos (Wallace 46), R Cordero (M Solis 46), Lopez (Centeno 46), C Castro (Rodriguez 46), Fonseca, Medford (Sunsing 46), Gomez (W Parks 12).
Colombia: Gomez - Palacio, Dinas, Posada, Cortez, Rojano (Chara 46), J Restrepo (Moreno 75), Ramirez, Viveros, Castillo, J Serna. *Sent off: Ramirez 54min.*

May 9 - Freiburg - friendly
Germany 7 (Frings 10, Bierhoff 24, 43, pen 72, Deisler 40, Al-Shammari og 44, Jancker 77)
Kuwait 0
HT: 5-0. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Nilsson (Swe)
Germany: Kahn - Metzelder, Rahn, Kehl (Ernst 67), Linke, Deisler (Freier 62), Frings, Jeremies, Bierhoff (Bierofka 73), Klose, Jancker.
Kuwait: Khalidi - Abdulrahman (Al-Antari 74), Al-Marta, Al-Shammari (Jarragh 87), Zayed (Khaled 66), Al-Tayyar, Al-Mutairi (Najem 64), Al-Buraiki (Jallab 89), Jumah (Al-Failakawi 46), Kamal, Saeid (Ajab 65).

Saturday, May 11

May 11 - Kunming - friendly
China 3 (Su Maozhen 78, 81, 88)
Thailand 1 (Manit 63)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Hamid (Mly)
China: Ou Chuliang - Yang Pu (Wu Chengying 46), Li Weifeng (Du Wei 46), Fan Zhiyi (Sun Jihai 46), Xu Yunlong (Zhang Enhua 46), Ma Mingyu (Zhao Junzhe 46), Li Tie, Qi Hong (Zhang Yuning 46), Li Xiaopeng (Li Ming 46), Su Maozhen, Qu Bo.
Thailand: Kittisak - Sarawut, Preratat, Anucha, Narongchai, Jukkapant, Sakda, Nurat, Phaitoon, Wuttiya (Manit 42), Jetsada.

Sunday, May 12

May 12 - Mexico City - friendly
Mexico 2 (Borgetti 52, Marquez 75)
Colombia 1 (O Restrepo 65)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sibrian (ElS)
Mexico: O Perez (J Campos 76) - Vidrio, Brown, Gabriel de Anda (Marquez 68), Carmona (A Rodriguez 46), Villa (Torrado 46), R Garcia (R Morales 46), Caballero, Luna (Garcia Aspe 56), L Hernandez (C Blanco 46), Borgetti.
Colombia: Gomez - Viveros, Posada, Cortez, Dinas, Castillo, Moreno (Chara 87), Calle, O Restrepo (Rojano 79), Vazquez (J Serna 68), J Restrepo.

May 12 - Durban - friendly
South Africa 1 (Mngomeni 14)
Madagascar 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Sentso (Les)

May 12 - Washington DC - friendly
United States 2 (Sanneh 6, Beasley 39)
Uruguay 1 (Abreu 59)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,413. **Ref:** Burgos (Gtm)
USA: Friedel - Regis, Agoos, Sanneh (Hejduk 66), Pope, Stewart (Donovan 46), Beasley, Jones, Armas (Mastroeni 20), Mathis, McBride (Moore 66).
Uruguay: Munua - Mendez, Lembo, Sorondo, Dario Rodriguez (R Olivera 66), O'Neill, Garcia, N Olivera (Regueiro 46), Magallanes (Guigou 46), Recoba, Abreu.

Tuesday, May 14

May 14 - Brussels –friendly
Belgium 0
Algeria 0
Att: 20,000. **Ref:** Rogalla (Swi)
Belgium: De Vlieger - De Boeck, Deflandre (J Peeters 46), P Van der Heyden, Goor (Boffin 60), Simons (Englebert 46), Wilmots (Strupar 46; Thijs 90), Sonck (Vermant 46), M Mpenza, Van Meir (Van Buyten 46), Walem (Vanderhaeghe 46).
Algeria: Gaouaoui - Mezriche (Aknouene 64), Haddou, Aribi, Mansouri (Ghazi 73), Kraouche, Zafour, Drioueche, Akrour, Saifi (Bezzaz 79), Belgherbi.

May 14 - Oslo - friendly
Norway 3 (H Berg 72, Rushfeldt 76, Solskjaer 84)
Japan 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,348. **Ref:** Kasnaferis (Gre)
Norway: Myhre - H Berg, Bergdolmo, R Johnsen (Lundekvam 46), Riise, E Bakke, Leonhardsen (Riseth 85), Andersen, Sorensen (Tessem 46), Solskjaer, Iversen (Rushfeldt 74).
Japan: Kawaguchi - K Nakata (Hattori 81), Miyamoto, Nakazawa, Ichikawa (Myojin 46), Fukunishi (Toda 46), Ono, Kubo (Yanagisawa 46), H Nakata, T Suzuki (Ogasawara 85), Inamoto (Alex 85).

May 14 - Riyadh - friendly
Saudi Arabia 3 (Al-Jaber pen 9, Suwaid 48, A H Al-Yami 61)
Senegal 2 (S Camara 45, Diouf pen 50)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Qassem Hamza (Kuw)
Saudi Arabia: Babkr (Zaid 36) - Shliya (A D Al-Dosari 46), A K Al-Dosari (Sulimani 46), Tukar, Abdelghani, Al-Khathran, Hawsawi, Al-Wakad (Suwaid 29), K Al-Dosari (Bin Shehan 88), Al-Jaber (Al-Shehri 78), A H Al-Yami.
Senegal: Sylva - Coly (S N'Diaye 71), Diatta, A Cisse, Daf, P M Diop, Diao, Moussa N'Diaye, Fadiga (Ndour 46), Diouf (H Camara 60; Faye 73), S Camara (P B Diop 46). *Sent off: Diao.*

May 14 - Bratislava - friendly
Slovakia 4 (Gresko 5, Kozlej 47, 79, Mintal 85)
Uzbekistan 1 (Tojiev 49)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,850: **Ref:** Alseth (Nor)

May 14 - Cardiff - friendly
Wales 1 (Earnshaw 46)
Germany 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 36,920. **Ref:** Olsen (Nor)
Wales: Crossley - Delaney, Melville, Page Pembridge, Savage, Speed, Giggs, Hartson, Earnshaw (Coleman 90), Davies.
Germany: Kahn - Metzelder, Linke, Heinrich, Ziege (Bode 63), Deisler (Asamoah 63), Hamann (Kehl 74), Frings, Jeremies, Bierhoff (Jancker 72), Klose.

Wednesday, May 15

May 15 - Rhodes - friendly
Greece 3 (Fissas 27, 32, Amanatidis 79)
Cyprus 1 (Nicolaou 5)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Fernandez Marin (Spa)

May 15 - St Gallen - friendly
Switzerland 1 (N'Kufo 80)
Canada 3 (Radzinski 20, 47, Stalteri 38)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Plautz (Aut)

Thursday, May 16

May 16 - Shenyang - friendly
China 0
Uruguay 2 (Abreu 77, 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000
China: Jiang Jin (An Qi 46) - Wu Chengying (Yang Pu 75), Fan Zhiyi (Zhang Enhua 29), Sun Jihai (Xu Yunlong 21), Li Tie (Gao Yao 46), Li Weifeng (Du Wei 71), Qi Hong, Ma Mingyu (Zhao Junzhe 46), Li Xiaopeng (Li Ming 60), Su Maozhen (Qu Bo 46), Yang Chen (Zhang Yuning 60).
Uruguay: Carini - Mendez (Perez 83), Sorondo, Montero (N Olivera 68), Dario Rodriguez (Eguren 84), Recoba, O'Neill, Garcia (Romero 64), Guigou, Regueiro (Forlan 60), Abreu.

May 16 - San Francisco - friendly
Mexico 1 (Palencia 47)
Bolivia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kennedy (USA)
Mexico: O Perez (O Sanchez 72) - Carmona (A Rodriguez 57), Marquez, Brown, Vidrio (Mercado 68), R Garcia (R Morales 57), Torrado, Caballero, Luna (Garcia Aspe 57), L Hernandez (Palencia 46), Borgetti (C Blanco 46).
Bolivia: Arias - Hoyos, Jiguchi, O Sanchez, Colque, R Gutierrez, Olivares (L Paz 43), Bengolea, Galindo (Trujillo 46), L Gutierrez (Guzman 82), Andaveris (J A Castillo 76).

May 16 - Dublin - friendly
Rep Ireland 1 (Reid 69)
Nigeria 2 (Aghahowa 13, Sodje 47)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 42,652. **Ref:** Almeida Costa (Por)
Rep Ireland: Given - Finnan, Cunningham, Staunton, Harte, McAteer (Reid 46), Holland, Roy Keane (Kinsella 64), Kilbane (G Kelly 61), Duff (Connolly 61), Robbie Keane (Morrison 61).
Nigeria: Shorunmu - Sodje, West, Okoronkwo, Yobo, Okocha (Oruma 66), N Kanu, Aghahowa, Ikedia, Opabunmi, Ogbeche.

May 16 - Busan - friendly
South Korea 4 (Lee Chun-soo 15, Ahn Jung-hwan 57, 87, Yoon Jong-hwan 67)
Scotland 1 (Dobie 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Nagalingam (Sin)
South Korea: Kim Byung-ji - Kim Tae-young, Hong Myong-bo (Yoon Jong-hwan 65), Choi Jin-chul (Lee Min-sung 46), Song Chong-gug, Yoo Sang-chul, Lee Young-pyo, Lee Eul-yong, Park Ji-sung (Choi Tai-uk 72), Lee Chun-soo (Cha Doo-Ii 72), Hwang Sun-hong (Ahn Jung-hwan 46).
Scotland: Sullivan - Dailly, Weir, Ross, Caldwell, G Alexander (Stockdale 62), Gemmill, Stewart (Severin 46), Johnston (Kyle 65), Dobie, O'Connor (Williams 46).

May 16 - East Rutherford - friendly
United States 5 (Wolff 32, 60, Mathis 47, Donovan 84, Beasley 90)
Jamaica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,659. **Ref:** Farias (Can)
USA: Keller (Meola 53) - Hejduk, Mastroeni, Berhalter (Llamosa 46), Vanney (Sanneh 49), Donovan, Reyna (Agoos 46), O'Brien (Lewis 46), Stewart (Mathis 46; Beasley 63), Moore, Wolff.
Jamaica: A Lawrence - Dixon, McDonald, Marshall (F Davis 86), Scarlett, Whitmore (Johnson 46), Simpson (Williams 61), Kelly (Burton 46), Fuller (Daley 62), Lowe (Lisbie 61), W Griffiths (M Griffiths 56).

Friday, May 17

May 17 - Copenhagen - friendly
Denmark 2 (Mettomo og 20, Tomasson pen 59)
Cameroon 1 (Mbami 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 34,571. **Ref:** Pedersen (Nor)
Denmark: Sorensen - Helveg, Henriksen, Lustu, Heintze (N Jensen 87), Tofting (Steen Nielsen 65), Gravesen, Martin Jorgensen (C Jensen 46), Rommedahl (Michaelsen 80), Tomasson, Gronkjaer (Lovenkrands 46).
Cameroon: Alioum - Tchuisse, Song (Njanka 46), Mettomo (Kalla 46), Wome, Djemba-Djemba, Alnoujdi (Tchato 46), Olembe (Ngom Kome 46), Mbami (Feutchine 83), Epalle (Ndo 76), Job (Kioyo 46).

May 17 - Moscow - LG Cup
Russia 1 (Solomatin pen 28)
Belarus 1 (Bialkevich 15)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Belarus 5-4 on pens
Russia: Nigmatullin - Tetradze (Karyaka 46), Chugainov, Sennikov, Solomatin, Dayev (Nikiforov 46), Semshov, Arshavin (Alenichev 72), Laktionov (Khokhlov 46), Kerzhakov (Semak 72), Pimenov.
Belarus: Tumilovich - Shtanyuk, Shuneiko (Khrapkovskiy 72), Ostrovski, Gurenko (Omelyanchuk 81), Khatskevich (Kovba 78), Romaschenko, Kulchy, Bialkevich, Gleb, Kutuzov (Volodenkov 60).

May 17 - Ljubljana - friendly
Slovenia 2 (Zahovic 25, Novak 45)
Ghana 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Benes (Cze)
Slovenia: Simeunovic - Galic (Vugdalic 38), Milinovic, Knavs, Karic, Gajser (Sankovic 46), Novak, Pavlin (Acimovic 46), Zahovic (N Ceh 63), Rudonja, Cimirotic (Osterc 46).
Ghana: Kingston - Amponsah, Gyan, Mensah (Karim 83), Essien (Ibrahim 61), Appiah, Sulley (Rahman 68), Blay, Edusei, Ofori-Quaye, Boateng (Pantsil 83).

May 17 - Stockholm - friendly
Sweden 1 (Andreas Andersson 54)
Paraguay 2 (Santa Cruz 17, Paredes 44)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 33,103. **Ref:** Mejuto Gonzalez (Spa)
Sweden: Hedman - Lucic, P Andersson, Mjallby, Edman, Linderoth, Alexandersson, D Andersson (Farnerud 80), Andreas Andersson, Allback (Ibrahimovic 66), Larsson.
Paraguay: Chilavert - Arce, Ayala, Gamarra, Caniza, Gavilan (Morinigo 83), Acuna, Paredes, Alvarenga (Bonet 87), Campos, Santa Cruz.

May 17 - Moscow - LG Cup
Yugoslavia 0
Ukraine 2 (Popov 28, Musolitin 78)
HT: 0-1

Saturday, May 18

May 18 - Prague - friendly
Czech Republic 1 (Smicer 25)
Italy 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,077. **Ref:** Frohlich (Ger)
Czech Republic: Kinsky (Vaniak 46) - Jankulovski, Fukal (L Dosek 46; Stajner 90), Bolf, Rosicky (Kolousek 80), Poborsky (Petrous 89), Smicer (Sionko 46), Galasek, Koller (T Dosek 75), Johana, Jarosik.
Italy: Buffon (Toldo 46) - Cannavaro (Iuliano 46), Maldini (Materazzi 46), Nesta, Gattuso, Zambrotta (Di Livio 69), Coco (Panucci 46), Zanetti (Tommasi 46), Di Biagio (Delvecchio 69), Vieri (Montella 46), F Inzaghi (Del Piero 46).

May 18 - Saint-Denis - friendly
France 1 (Simons og 40)
Belgium 2 (De Boeck 20, Wilmots 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 79,959. **Ref:** Ivanov (Rus)
France: Rame - Desailly, Thuram (Sagnol 46), Leboeuf, Lizarazu (Candela 46), Dugarry, Petit, Vieira, Djorkaeff (Micoud 46), Wiltord (Boghossian 79), Trezeguet (Cisse 46).
Belgium: De Vlieger - Van Kerckhoven, De Boeck, Van Buyten, J Peeters (Deflandre 63), Goor (Boffin 46), Simons (Vanderhaeghe 74), Verheyen, Wilmots, M Mpenza (Sonck 46), Walem (Englebert 80).

May 18 - Leverkusen - friendly
Germany 6 (Klose 15, 29, 53, Bode 36, 70, Bierofka 83)
Austria 2 (Aufhauser 37, Wallner 46)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 21,500. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
Germany: Kahn - Metzelder, Linke, Ziege (Heinrich 46), Bode (Bierofka 81), Deisler (Kehl 22), Hamann, Frings (Rahn 85), Jeremies (Baumann 73), Jancker (Bierhoff 73), Klose (Asamoah 67).
Austria: Goriupp - Baur, Dospel (Pogatetz 82), Feldhofer (Scharner 63), Herzog (Brunmayr 52), Weissenberger (Markus Hiden 75), Aufhauser, Wallner (Kitzbichler 68), Landerl (Panis 46), Cerny, Mahlich.

May 18 - Blantyre - Cosafa Castle Cup, quarter-final
Malawi 2 (Kanyenda 9, Pereira og 37)
Angola 1 (Mponda og 51)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Mlangeni (Swa)

May 18 - London - friendly
Nigeria 1 (Obiorah 49)
Jamaica 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** D'Urso (Eng)
Nigeria: Shorunmu (Enyeama 46) - Ejiofor, West, Sodje, Udeze, Christopher, Aiyegbeni (Lawal 70), Obiorah (Adepoju 83), Ikedia, Ugali (Akwuegbu 37), Ogbeche.
Jamaica: A Lawrence - C Davis, McDonald, Dixon, Scarlett, J Lawrence (Kelly 84), Daley (McAnuff 66), Whitmore (Griffiths 79), F Davis, Burton (Fuller 39), Lisbie (Langley 66).

May 18 - Warsaw - friendly
Poland 1 (Zurawski 57)
Estonia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Bozinovski (Mac)
Poland: Majdan (Matysek 46) - Waldoch (Zielinski 46), Hajto (Klos 46), Rzasa (Michal Zewlakow 46), J Bak (Murawski 88), Kozminski (Sibik 57), Kaluzny (A Bak 64), Krzynowek (Glowacki 90), Swierczewski (Kucharski 70), Olisadebe (Zurawski 46), Kryszalowicz (Marcin Zewlakow 46).
Estonia: Poom - Allas, Stepanov, Piiroja, Saviauk, Leetma, Haavistu (Anniste 73), Kristal, Viikmae (Zelinski 68), Oper, Terehhov (U Rooba 66).

Sunday, May 19

May 19 - Moscow - LG Cup, Final
Belarus 2 (Bialkevich 48, Gleb 63)
Ukraine 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Malzinskas (Lit)

May 19 - Moscow - LG Cup, 3rd-place play-off
Russia 1 (Sychev 88)
Yugoslavia 1 (Kovacevic 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Yugoslavia 6-5 on pens
Russia: Nigmatullin - Nikiforov, Onopko, Kovtun, Solomatin (Sennikov 60), Karpin, Mostovoi (Semshov 6; Alenichev 81), Smertin, Titov (Khokhlov 62), Izmailov (Sychev 46), Beschastnykh (Kerzhakov 46).
Yugoslavia: Jevric - Mirkovic, Dzodic, Krstajic (Sasa Ilic 88), M Markovic (Koroman 46), Dragutinovic, D Stankovic (P Djordjevic 76), N Brnovic (Gavrancic 65), V Ivic (Lazetic 46; Pjanovic 89), Mijatovic (Milosevic 74), Kovacevic (Kezman 78).

May 19 - Foxboro - friendly
United States 0
Holland 2 (Makaay 45, Van der Meyde 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 36,778. **Ref:** Archundia (Mex)
USA: Friedel (Keller 46) - Agoos (Berhalter 40), Pope, Regis (Moore 80), Sanneh, Mathis (Donovan 55), O'Brien, Reyna, Stewart (Jones 72), McBride (Wolff 64), Beasley (Lewis 86).
Holland: Waterreus - Stam (Ooijer 80), Numan, F De Boer, Reiziger (Ricksen 34), Landzaat, Davids, Zenden (Sikora 74), Makaay (Van Hooijdonk 74), Cocu (Bosvelt 74), Van der Meyde.

Monday, May 20

May 20 - Hong Kong - Reunification Cup
Hong Kong XI 0
Turkey 2 (Hakan Sukur pen 21, Hasan Sas 45)
HT: 0-2

May 20 - Hong Kong - Reunification Cup
South Africa 2 (T Mokoena 32, Koumantarakis 90)
Scotland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,007. **Ref:** Chan (HK)
South Africa: Vonk - A Mokoena (Nzama 62), Radebe, Issa, Carnell, Zuma (Koumantarakis 82), Sibaya, Fortune (Buckley 84), Pule (Mukansi 69), McCarthy, T Mokoena.
Scotland: Douglas - Stockdale (G Alexander 69), Caldwell (Wilkie 46), Dailly, Weir, Ross, Gemmill (Stewart 86), Williams (Severin 78), Dobie, Kyle, Johnston (McFadden 62).

Tuesday, May 21

May 21 - San Marino
San Marino 0
Estonia 1 (Zelinski 36)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 250. **Ref:** Dondarini (Ita)

May 21 - Singapore - friendly
Singapore 1 (Sahdan pen 82)
Uruguay 2 (R Morales 27, 76)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 23,834. **Ref:** Mohd Salleh (Mly)
Singapore: Mahamud (Sawardi 62) - Iskander, Nasir, Alam Shah (Latiff 46), Grabovac (Sahdan 62), Kumar, Khairon, Halis (Zainal 30), Jantan, N Ali (Abdullah 46), Baskin (Zainuddin 46).
Uruguay: Carini (Elduayen 46) - Guigou, Varela (R Olivera 49), Sorondo (Eguren 53), Bizera, Romero, Regueiro, N Olivera (Perez 53), R Morales, Forlan, De los Santos.

May 21 - Seogwipo - friendly
South Korea 1 (Park Ji-sung 52)
England 1 (Owen 26)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 39,876. **Ref:** Supian (Mly)
South Korea: Lee Woon-jae - Choi Jin-chul, Hong Myung-bo, Kim Nam-il (Lee Min-sung 89), Lee Young-pyo, Park Ji-sung, Song Chong-gug, Yoo Sang-chul, Choi Tai-uk (Cha Doo-Il 76), Lee Chun-soo, Seol Ki-hyeon (Ahn Jung-hwan 57).
England: Martyn (James 46) - Ashley Cole (Bridge 46), Ferdinand (Keown 46), Campbell (Southgate 46), Mills (Brown 68), Scholes (J Cole 46), Hargreaves, Murphy (Sinclair 46), Owen (Sheringham 46), Heskey, Vassell.

EUROPE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

April 9

Barcelona 3 (Luis Enrique 22, 49, Saviola 61)
Panathinaikos 1 (Constantinou 7)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 89,180. **Ref:** Meier (Swi)
Barcelona 3-2 on agg
Barcelona: Bonano (Reina 84) - Puyol, De Boer, Abelardo, Coco (Kluivert 45) - Luis Enrique, Xavi, Cocu, Rivaldo - Saviola, Overmars (Gabri 76).
Panathinaikos: Nikopolidis - Saric, Henriksen, Kyrgiakos, Goumas, Fissas - Karagounis (Michaelsen 45), Basinas, Kolkka (Vlaovic 76) - Limberopoulos (Olisadebe 46), Constantinou.

Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Ballack 15, 63, Berbatov 68, Lucio 84)
Liverpool 2 (Abel Xavier 42, Litmanen 79)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Melo Pereira (Por)
Leverkusen 4-3 on agg
Leverkusen: Butt - Sebescen (Neuville 46), Lucio, Nowotny, Placente - Schneider, Basturk, Ballack, Ze Roberto - Kirsten (Berbatov 46), Brdaric (Zivkovic 68).
Liverpool: Dudek - Abel Xavier (Berger 75), Henchoz, Hyypia, Carragher - Murphy, Gerrard, Hamann (Smicer 59), Riise - Owen, Heskey (Litmanen 41).

April 10

Manchester United 3 (Solskjaer 23, 56, Giggs 69)
Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Blanc og 44, Djalminha 90)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 65,875. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Man Utd 5-2 on agg
Man Utd: Barthez - G Neville, Blanc, Johnsen (Brown 37), Silvestre - Beckham (Solskjaer 21), Butt, Veron (P Neville 73), Fortune - Giggs - Van Nistelrooy.
Deportivo: Molina - Scaloni, Hector, Naybet, Romero - Duscher, Valeron - Victor (Makaay 50), Djalminha, Fran (Capdevila 62) - Diego Tristan (Pandiani 70). *Sent off: Scaloni 59min, Duscher 75min.*

Real Madrid 2 (Ivan Helguera 68, Guti 84)
Bayern Munich 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 75,328. **Ref:** Braschi (Ita)
Real Madrid 3-2 on agg
Real Madrid: Cesar - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Ivan Helguera, Roberto Carlos - Makelele - Figo (Geremi 88), Zidane, Solari - Raul, Morientes (Guti 80).
Bayern: Kahn - Kuffour (Pizarro 73), Linke, R Kovac, Lizarazu - Jeremies (Fink 83), Hargreaves - Salihamidzic, Effenberg, Santa Cruz - Elber. *Sent off: Salihamidzic 90min.*

Semi-finals, 1st legs

April 23

Barcelona 0
Real Madrid 2 (Zidane 55, McManaman 90)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 98,000. **Ref:** Frisk (Swe)
Barcelona: Bonano - Reiziger (Geovanni 59), Abelardo (Christanval 73), De Boer, Motta (Gabri 82) - Rochemback, Luis Enrique, Cocu - Kluivert - Saviola, Overmars.
Real Madrid: Cesar - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Pavon, Roberto Carlos - Makelele, Ivan Helguera, Solari (Flavio 89) - Zidane - Raul, Guti (McManaman 80).

April 24

Manchester United 2 (Solskjaer 29, Van Nistelrooy pen 67)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Ballack 62, Neuville 75)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 66,534. **Ref:** Michel (Slk)
Man Utd: Barthez - G Neville (P Neville 18; Irwin 88), Blanc, Brown, Silvestre - Veron, Scholes (Keane 82), Butt, Solskjaer - Giggs - Van Nistelrooy.
Leverkusen: Butt - Zivkovic, Lucio, Nowotny (Sebescen 46), Placente - Ramelow - Schneider, Ballack, Basturk (Vranjes 75), Ze Roberto - Berbatov (Neuville 72).

Semi-finals, 2nd legs

April 30

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Neuville 45)
Manchester United 1 (Keane 28)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
Agg 3-3. Leverkusen on away goals
Leverkusen: Butt - Zivkovic, Lucio, Nowotny (Sebescen 10), Placente - Ramelow - Schneider, Basturk (Vranjes 79), Ballack, Ze Roberto - Neuville (Berbatov 85).
Man Utd: Barthez - Brown (Forlan 81), Blanc, Johnsen (Irwin 60), Silvestre - Scholes, Keane, Butt (Solskjaer 61), Giggs - Veron - Van Nistelrooy.

May 1

Real Madrid 1 (Raul 43)
Barcelona 1 (Ivan Helguera og 48)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Collina (Ita)
Real Madrid 3-1 on agg
Real Madrid: Cesar - Michel Salgado, Hierro, Ivan Helguera, Roberto Carlos - Makelele - Figo (McManaman 68), Zidane (Flavio 46), Solari - Raul, Guti (Pavon 87).
Barcelona: Bonano - Puyol, Abelardo, De Boer, Coco (Overmars 46) - Rochemback (Geovanni 67), Xavi, Cocu (Sergi 75) - Luis Enrique - Saviola, Kluivert.

UEFA CUP

Semi-finals, 2nd legs

April 11

Feyenoord 2 (Van Hooijdonk 18, Tomasson 35)
Internazionale 2 (C Zanetti 85, Kallon pen 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 49,904. **Ref:** Lopez Nieto (Spa)
Feyenoord 3-2 on agg
Feyenoord: Zoetebier - Gyan, Van Wonderen, Paauwe, Aros - Kalou (Leonardo Santiago 73), Bosvelt, Emerton, Van Persie (Leonardo dos Santos 37) - Tomasson, Van Hooijdonk.
Inter: Toldo - Ferraro, Materazzi, Di Biagio, J Zanetti - Seedorf (Sergio Conceicao 57), C Zanetti, Dalmat, Emre - Ventola, Ronaldo (Kallon 69).

Milan 3 (Inzaghi 11, Contra 19, Serginho pen 90)
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Ricken 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,301. **Ref:** Veissiere (Fra)
Dortmund 5-3 on agg
Milan: Abbiati - Helveg, Chamot, Laursen, Kaladze - Contra (Jose Mari 63), Gattuso (Albertini 73), Pirlo, Serginho - Inzaghi, Shevchenko (Simone 68).
Dortmund: Lehmann - Heinrich (Evanilson 58), Worns, Metzelder, Dede - Reuter, Oliseh - Rosicky - Ewerthon (Ricken 72), Koller, Amoroso.

AUSTRIA

Apr 6: Admira 0 Austria Wien 5; Karnten 1 Bregenz 2; Grazer AK 0 FC Tirol 0; Rapid Wien 2 SV Ried 1.
Apr 7: Salzburg 3 Sturm Graz 5.
Apr 13: Bregenz 1 Grazer AK 4; Salzburg 0 Karnten 1; Sturm Graz 3 Admira 0; FC Tirol 1 SV Ried 1.
Apr 20: Admira 2 Salzburg 2; Karnten 2 Austria Wien 2; Rapid Wien 0 FC Tirol 1; SV Ried 0 Bregenz 2.
Apr 21: Grazer AK 1 Sturm Graz 1.
Apr 24: Austria Wien 1 Rapid Wien 1.
Apr 27: Bregenz 2 FC Tirol 0; Karnten 3 Admira 1; Sturm Graz 3 SV Ried 0.
Apr 28: Austria Wien 0 Grazer AK 2; Salzburg 6 Rapid Wien 1.
May 1: Bregenz 1 Austria Wien 4; Grazer AK 3 Karnten 0; Rapid Wien 3 Admira 2; SV Ried 0 Salzburg 1; FC Tirol 3 Sturm Graz 4.
May 4: Admira 1 SV Ried 3; Austria Wien 2 FC Tirol 1; Karnten 1 Rapid Wien 1; Salzburg 1 Grazer AK 0; Sturm Graz 4 Bregenz 1.
May 9: Bregenz 1 Salzburg 1; Grazer AK 5 Admira 1; Rapid Wien 3 Sturm Graz 0; SV Ried 1 Austria Wien 0; FC Tirol 3 Karnten 1.

AUSTRIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Tirol	36	23	6	7	63	20	75
Sturm Graz	36	18	11	7	68	42	65
Grazer AK	36	17	12	7	69	39	63
Austria Wien	36	14	11	11	53	38	53
Karnten	36	14	8	14	40	52	50
Salzburg	36	13	10	13	42	40	49
Bregenz	36	12	9	15	51	70	45
Rapid Wien	36	11	10	15	37	49	43
SV Ried	36	9	9	18	37	54	36
Admira	36	3	6	27	25	81	15

BELGIUM

Friday, April 5

Club Brugge 1 (Mendoza 10)
Charleroi 0 Att: 17,000

Saturday, April 6

Anderlecht 0
St Truiden 2 (Mbonabucya 75, Van Geel 88) Att: 23,921

Beveren 0
Lokeren 2 (Zoundi 31, Bangoura 66) Att: 2,700

Genk 2 (Thijs 10, 45)
RWDM 0 Att: 20,634

Gent 1 (Kraouche 55)
Germinal Beerschot 1 (Beloufa 58) Att: 8,345

La Louviere 1 (Aliaj 50)
Mouscron 0 Att: 6,000

Lierse 1 (Thompson 55)
Standard 1 (Goossens 89) Att: 7,500

Royal Antwerp 1 (Goots 3)
Westerlo 1 (Vandenbergh 69) Att: 4,500

Sunday, April 7

Eendracht Aalst 0
Lommel 1 (Waligora 89) Att: 2,700

Friday, April 12

Standard 1 (Spehar 83)
Club Brugge 1 (Mendoza 23) Att: 18,000

Saturday, April 13

Charleroi 2 (Pivaljevic 1, Yazdani 70)
Eendracht Aalst 1 (De Wilde 72) Att: 6,310

Germinal Beerschot 4 (Huysmans 22, Kpaka pen 26, 31, Snelders 77)
Beveren 1 (Zezeto 60) Att: 6,000

Lommel 2 (Waligora 24, Valenta 87)
Gent 4 (Oyawole 13, 65, Kaklamanos 85, 89) Att: 4,300

RWDM 1 (Kolotilko 65)
Lierse 0 Att: 2,500

St Truiden 0
Genk 1 (Chatelle 12) Att: 12,000

Westerlo 0
La Louviere 1 (Buelinckx 59) Att: 3,000

Sunday, April 14

Lokeren 0
Royal Antwerp 0 Att: 3,500

Mouscron 1 (Mpenza 35)
Anderlecht 1 (De Bilde 6) Att: 11,500

Tuesday, April 16

Germinal Beerschot 2 (Kpaka pen 36, 87)
Standard 2 (Goossens 25, Enakarhire 30) Att: 8,000

Saturday, April 20

Anderlecht 3 (Mornar 9, Baseggio 23, El Said 66)
Westerlo 3 (Vandenbergh 20, Smits 27, Pelic 84) Att: 23,000

Gent 3 (Dimbala 11, Oyawole 32, Vanic pen 57)
Charleroi 0 Att: 7,600

La Louviere 0
Lokeren 1 (Kristinsson 81) Att: 3,200

Lierse 0
St Truiden 2 (Mbonabucya 5, Verjans 75) Att: 6,700

Lommel 2 (Culek 14, Tankary 49)
Germinal Beerschot 2 (Mokoena 28, Mutavdzic 59) Att: 4,000

Royal Antwerp 4 (Kubik 2, Yattara 48, Goots 50, 56)
Beveren 0 Att: 4,000

Sunday, April 21

Club Brugge 1 (Mendoza 75)
RWDM 1 (Fassotte 37) Att: 18,000

Eendracht Aalst 1 (De Wilde 55)
Standard 2 (Van Dooren 50, Lukunku 85) Att: 2,000

Genk 3 (Sonck 55, Thijs pen 62, Dagano 81)
Mouscron 1 (Charlet 44) Att: 22,135

Saturday, April 27

Charleroi 1 (Pivaljevic 64)
Lommel 3 (Valenta 32, Culek 58, Tankary 88) Att: 6,000

Sunday, April 28

Beveren 0
La Louviere 3 (Rivenet 48, 90, Djim 82) Att: 1,500

Lokeren 0
Anderlecht 1 (MacDonald 78) Att: 6,500

Mouscron 2 (Marcin Zewlakow 24, Casto pen 63)
Lierse 0 Att: 7,000

Royal Antwerp 2 (Yattara 4, Goots 13)
Germinal Beerschot 3 (Degryse 8, Kpaka 64, Huysmans 66) Att: 11,000

RWDM 4 (Jarakovic 40, 75, Origi 49, Kolotilko 80)
Eendracht Aalst 3 (Bridji 15, Van der Heyden 70, Joly pen 82) Att: 3,150

St Truiden 5 (Mbonabucya 16, 52, Boffin 57, Pereira 70, Kalisa 80)
Club Brugge 3 (Mendoza 5, Martens 53, Simons 59) Att: 11,000

Standard 0
Gent 1 (Kaklamanos 35) Att: 11,000

Westerlo 0
Genk 0 Att: 11,000

Saturday, May 4

Germinal Beerschot 4 (Kpaka 12, 38, 65, Huysmans 77)
Charleroi 1 (Eduardo 58) Att: 11,500

La Louviere 3 (Kenmogne 5, 79, Rivenet 31)
Royal Antwerp 0 Att: 4,000

Sunday, May 5

Anderlecht 3 (Hendrikx 8, Baseggio 25, Dindane 41)
Beveren 0 Att: 22,762

Club Brugge 2 (Clement 37, Mendoza 52)
Mouscron 0 Att: 16,594

Eendracht Aalst 1 (De Wilde 14)
St Truiden 1 (Van Geel 47) Att: 2,000

Genk 3 (Dagano 20, Daerden 72, Sonck 81)
Lokeren 3 (De Beule 8, Kristinsson 16, Sylla 84) Att: 23,624

Gent 3 (Schepens 44, Borkelmans pen 71, Oyawole 86)
RWDM 5 (Jarakovic 14, 23, 78, Ramcic pen 62, Kolotilko pen 72) Att: 9,000

Lierse 4 (Snoeckx 7, Gadiaga 20, Huysegems 49, Frigard 73)
Westerlo 1 (Smits 77) Att: 6,000

Lommel 1 (Valenta 39)
Standard 1 (Lukunku 18) Att: 5,000

BELGIUM – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Genk	34	20	12	2	85	43	72
Club Brugge	34	22	4	8	74	41	70
Anderlecht	34	18	12	4	71	37	66
Gent	34	16	10	8	62	51	58
Standard	34	15	12	7	57	38	57
Mouscron	34	17	5	12	68	40	56
Lokeren	34	15	10	9	43	33	55
St Truiden	34	16	5	13	52	47	53
G Beerschot	34	11	16	7	68	51	49
RWDM	34	13	5	16	50	59	44
La Louviere	34	12	8	14	41	52	44
Charleroi	34	11	6	17	40	63	39
Lommel	34	10	9	15	54	66	39
Westerlo	34	9	9	16	49	61	36
Lierse	34	9	8	17	55	65	35
Royal Antwerp	34	7	10	17	47	67	31
Eendracht Aalst	34	4	9	21	32	73	21
Beveren	34	2	8	24	30	91	14

TOP GOALSCORERS

30 Wesley Sonck (Genk)
25 Paul Kpaka (Germinal Beerschot)
20 Beli Moumouni Dagano (Genk)
20 Rune Lange (Club Brugge)

BELGIAN CUP – Final

May 9 - King Baudouin stadium, Brussels
Mouscron 1 (Blondel 57)
Club Brugge 3 (Mendoza 22, 75, 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 32,881
Sent off: Casto (Mouscron) 84min

BULGARIA

CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

Apr 5: Lovech 1 Naftex 0.
Apr 6: Levski 3 Slavia 1; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1 CSKA 0.
Apr 13: Naftex 0 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0; Levski 1 Lovech 0.
Apr 14: Slavia 0 CSKA 3.
Apr 21: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1 Levski 3; Lovech 2 Slavia 0; CSKA 3 Naftex 2.
Apr 24: Slavia 1 Naftex 2; Levski 2 CSKA 0; Lovech 3 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1.
Apr 28: Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1 Slavia 2; CSKA 1 Lovech 2; Naftex 1 Levski 1.
May 4: Slavia 0 Levski 2; Naftex 0 Lovech 2; CSKA 4 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0.
May 11: CSKA 0 Slavia 2; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2 Naftex 1; Lovech 2 Levski 2.
May 18: Slavia 2 Lovech 1; Levski 2 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 0; Naftex 1 CSKA 0.

BULGARIA – CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	34	26	7	1	74	26	53
Lovech	34	21	8	5	63	34	44
CSKA	34	18	7	9	59	28	35
Lok Plovdiv	34	18	6	10	48	38	34
Naftex	34	14	8	12	42	35	29
Slavia	34	13	7	14	39	46	28

Points total was halved after regular season (26 rounds). All other totals carried forward in full.

CROATIA

Apr 6: Varteks 2 Cibalia 1; Slaven 2 Cakovec 0; Hrvatski drag 0 Kamen Ingrad 1; Osijek 4 TSK 1; Zagreb 3 Sibenik 0; Rijeka 2 Pomorac 2; Marsonia 2 Zadar 3.
Apr 7: Hajduk 2 Dinamo 1.
Apr 13: Cakovec 0 Hajduk 3; Cibalia 3 Marsonia 2; Hrvatski drag 2 Osijek 2; Kamen Ingrad 1 Slaven 0; Pomorac 1 Zagreb 0; Zadar 7 TSK 1; Sibenik 1 Varteks 0.
Apr 14: Dinamo 2 Rijeka 3.
Apr 20: Osijek 2 Zadar 0; Rijeka 2 Cakovec 1; Slaven 2 Hrvatski drag 1; Varteks 1 Pomorac 2; TSK 0 Cibalia 3; Zagreb 2 Dinamo 1; Hajduk 5 Kamen Ingrad 0; Marsonia 1 Sibenik 2.
Apr 27: Sibenik 8 TSK 0; Cibalia 1 Zadar 1; Hrvatski drag 1 Hajduk 0; Cakovec 0 Zagreb 0; Pomorac 0 Marsonia 1; Slaven 2 Osijek 0; Kamen Ingrad 2 Rijeka 0; Dinamo 5 Varteks 0.
May 4: Hajduk 4 Slaven 1; Rijeka 3 Hrvatski drag 2; Osijek 0 Cibalia 0; Varteks 2 Cakovec 1; Marsonia 1 Dinamo 2; Zadar 3 Sibenik 2; TSK 1 Pomorac 3; Zagreb 1 Kamen Ingrad 1.

CROATIA – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zagreb	30	20	7	3	71	24	67
Hajduk	30	20	5	5	61	28	65
Dinamo	30	18	5	7	58	30	59
Varteks	30	17	6	7	58	40	57
Rijeka	30	15	6	9	46	37	51
Slaven	30	11	9	10	34	36	42
Pomorac	30	12	4	14	36	41	40
Osijek	30	11	4	15	45	48	37
Zadar	30	9	9	12	43	47	36
Cibalia	30	9	9	12	34	37	36
Sibenik	30	10	6	14	33	36	36
Kamen Ingrad	30	9	8	13	28	46	35
Hrvatski drag	30	9	7	14	34	45	34
Cakovec	30	9	5	16	31	44	32
Marsonia	30	8	6	16	37	46	30
TSK	30	4	2	24	31	95	14

CZECH REPUBLIC

Apr 5: Sparta 1 Slavia 1.
Apr 7: Olomouc 3 Hradec Kralove 0; Pribram 1 Zizkov 1; Opava 3 Drnovice 1; Chmel Blsany 3 Ostrava 1; Synot 2 Teplice 0; Bohemians 1 Brno 0.
Apr 8: Liberec 3 Jablonec 0.
Apr 12: Ostrava 1 Sparta 0.
Apr 14: Hradec Kralove 2 Bohemians 0; Brno 0 Synot 0; Teplice 2 Chmel Blsany 1; Slavia 1 Liberec 3; Jablonec 5 Opava 0; Drnovice 0 Pribram 1; Zizkov 1 Olomouc 0.
Apr 20: Sparta 2 Teplice 3; Liberec 1 Ostrava 0.
Apr 21: Olomouc 3 Drnovice 0; Pribram 2 Jablonec 3; Opava 1 Slavia 2; Chmel Blsany 2 Brno 2; Synot 3 Bohemians 1.
Apr 22: Zizkov 0 Hradec Kralove 0.
Apr 26: Teplice 2 Liberec 0.
Apr 28: Hradec Kralove 2 Synot 1; Bohemians 0 Chmel Blsany 1; Ostrava 1 Opava 2; Slavia 0 Pribram 0; Jablonec 0 Olomouc 1; Drnovice 1 Zizkov 2.
Apr 29: Brno 0 Sparta 1.
May 3: Drnovice 1 Hradec Kralove 0; Zizkov 2 Jablonec 1; Olomouc 0 Slavia 0; Pribram 2 Ostrava 5; Opava 0 Teplice 2; Liberec 3 Brno 3; Sparta 2 Bohemians 0; Chmel Blsany 2 Synot 1.
May 10: Hradec Kralove 1 Chmel Blsany 1; Synot 0 Sparta 1; Bohemians 2 Liberec 1; Brno 1 Opava 2; Teplice 1 Pribram 0; Ostrava 0 Olomouc 1; Slavia 1 Zizkov 0; Jablonec 2 Drnovice 0.

CZECH REPUBLIC – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liberec	30	19	7	4	55	26	64
Sparta	30	20	3	7	55	19	63
Zizkov	30	19	6	5	42	20	63
Bohemians	30	14	6	10	40	35	48
Slavia	30	12	11	7	45	34	47
Ostrava	30	12	8	10	43	36	44
Teplice	30	12	5	13	37	41	41
Brno	30	10	10	10	34	42	40
Jablonec	30	10	10	10	35	33	40
Olomouc	30	9	10	11	29	31	37
Synot	30	10	6	14	31	38	36
Hradec Kralove	30	9	8	13	28	42	35
Pribram	30	9	7	14	27	39	34
Chmel Blsany	30	8	5	17	35	51	29
Drnovice	30	7	5	18	31	45	26
Opava	30	5	3	22	23	58	18

DENMARK

Apr 7: AGF 2 Midtjylland 3; Vejle 1 Brondby 1; Esbjerg 0 AaB 1; Silkeborg 1 AB 1; Lyngby 1 Viborg 5; FC Copenhagen 4 OB 0.
Apr 10: AaB 2 Vejle 2; Brondby 2 AGF 2; OB 4 Lyngby 0; Viborg 3 Silkeborg 2; AB 0 Esbjerg 0; Midtjylland 0 FC Copenhagen 1.
Apr 14: AGF 2 AaB 2; Vejle 0 AB 4; Esbjerg 1 Viborg 0; Silkeborg 2 OB 2; Lyngby 0 FC Copenhagen 3; Brondby 1 Midtjylland 2.
Apr 21: FC Copenhagen 2 Silkeborg 1; OB 2 Esbjerg 1; Viborg 4 Vejle 1; Midtjylland 4 Lyngby 0; AaB 1 Brondby 2.
Apr 22: AB 1 AGF 0.
Apr 28: AaB 0 Midtjylland 1; Brondby 5 AB 0; AGF 4 Viborg 3; Vejle 1 OB 1; Esbjerg 1 FC Copenhagen 3; Silkeborg 5 Lyngby 2.
May 1: Silkeborg 2 Midtjylland 3; FC Copenhagen 2 Vejle 1; OB 5 AGF 0; Viborg 1 Brondby 1; AB 1 AaB 0; Lyngby 0 Esbjerg 2.
May 5: AaB 2 Viborg 1; Brondby 4 OB 1; AGF 1 FC Copenhagen 2; Vejle 2 Lyngby 2; Midtjylland 2 AB 0.
May 6: Esbjerg 1 Silkeborg 1.

May 12: Esbjerg 0 Midtjylland 1; Silkeborg 1 Vejle 0; Lyngby 0 AGF 1; FC Copenhagen 1 Brondby 1; OB 1 AaB 2; Viborg 2 AB 1.
May 16: AaB 2 FC Copenhagen 4; Brondby 2 Lyngby 0; AGF 4 Silkeborg 0; Vejle 2 Esbjerg 0; AB 4 OB 3; Midtjylland 3 Viborg 1.

DENMARK – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brondby	33	20	9	4	74	28	69
FC Copenhagen	33	20	9	4	62	25	69
Midtjylland	33	16	9	8	47	27	57
AaB	33	16	6	11	52	45	54
AB	33	13	11	9	48	38	50
OB	33	13	10	10	56	51	49
Esbjerg	33	13	6	14	42	44	45
Viborg	33	10	11	12	46	45	41
Silkeborg	33	8	8	17	41	50	32
AGF	33	7	10	16	42	56	31
Vejle	33	6	10	17	38	72	28
Lyngby	33	2	9	22	25	92	15

ENGLAND

Saturday, April 6

Arsenal 2 (Ljungberg 24, Lauren pen 86)
Tottenham 1 (Sheringham pen 81) Att: 38,186

Bolton 4 (Bobic 2, 30, 38, Djorkaeff 35)
Ipswich 1 (Clapham 90) Att: 25,817

Chelsea 3 (Hasselbaink 26, 44, Zola 90)
Everton 0 Att: 40,545

Leicester 0
Man Utd 1 (Solskjaer 61) Att: 21,447

Middlesbrough 2 (Carbone 39, Ehiogu 65)
Aston Villa 1 (Angel 60) Att: 26,003

Southampton 2 (Oakley 29, Pahars 55)
Derby 0 Att: 29,263

West Ham 2 (Di Canio pen 23, Kanoute 34)
Charlton 0 Att: 32,389

Sunday, April 7

Leeds 2 (Craddock og 8, Keane 83)
Sunderland 0 Att: 39,195

Monday, April 8

Newcastle 1 (Dyer 21)
Fulham 1 (Saha 77) Att: 50,017

Wednesday, April 10

Blackburn 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 25,441

Saturday, April 13

Aston Villa 0
Leeds 1 (Viduka 29) Att: 40,039

Charlton 1 (Rufus 17)
Southampton 1 (El Khalej 85) Att: 26,557

Derby 2 (Christie 45, Morris 53)
Newcastle 3 (Robert 73, Dyer 76, Lua Lua 90) Att: 31,031

Everton 2 (Chadwick 64, Ferguson 86)
Leicester 2 (Deane 18, 27) Att: 35,580

Sunderland 0
Liverpool 1 (Owen 55) Att: 48,335

Tottenham 1 (Sheringham 53)
West Ham 1 (Pearce 89) Att: 36,083

Saturday, April 20

Bolton 1 (Holdsworth 71)
Tottenham 1 (Iversen 8) Att: 25,817

Chelsea 0
Man Utd 3 (Scholes 15, Van Nistelrooy 41, Solskjaer 86) Att: 41,725

Leeds 0
Fulham 1 (Malbranque 52) Att: 39,111

Leicester 2 (Izzet pen 25, Stevenson 67)
Aston Villa 2 (Vassell 22, Hitzlsperger 27) Att: 18,125

Liverpool 2 (Owen 16, 90)
Derby 0 Att: 43,510

Middlesbrough 1 (Nemeth 90)
Blackburn 3 (Yordi 33, Cole 74, Dunn pen 83) Att: 26,932

Newcastle 3 (Speed 22, Lua Lua 45, Shearer 89)
Charlton 0 Att: 51,360

Southampton 0
Everton 1 (Watson 41) Att: 31,785

West Ham 3 (Sinclair 28, Lomas 52, Defoe 77)
Sunderland 0 Att: 34,500

Sunday, April 21

Arsenal 2 (Ljungberg 69, 78)
Ipswich 0 Att: 38,058

Tuesday, April 23

Blackburn 2 (Gillespie 24, Cole 67)
Newcastle 2 (Shearer 63, 71)

Fulham 3 (Goldbaek 42, Marlet 72, Hayles 76)
Bolton 0 Att: 18,107

Wednesday, April 24

Arsenal 2 (Ljungberg 77, Kanu 80)
West Ham 0 Att: 38,038

Ipswich 1 (D Bent 58)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 25,979

Saturday, April 27

Aston Villa 2 (Vassell 7, 41)
Southampton 1 (Beattie 52) Att: 35,255

Charlton 2 (Euell 2, Lisbie 82)
Sunderland 2 (Kilbane 2, Phillips 11) Att: 26,614

Derby 0
Leeds 1 (Bowyer 16) Att: 30,705

Fulham 0
Leicester 0 Att: 21,106

Ipswich 0
Man Utd 1 (Van Nistelrooy pen 45) Att: 28,433

Middlesbrough 0
Chelsea 2 (Cole 38, Zenden 43) Att: 28,686

Newcastle 3 (Shearer 41, Lua Lua 53, Robert 65)
West Ham 1 (Defoe 20) Att: 52,127

Tottenham 1 (Poyet 41)
Liverpool 0 Att: 36,017

Sunday, April 28

Everton 1 (Chadwick 50)
Blackburn 2 (Jansen 10, Cole 63) Att: 34,976

Monday, April 29

Bolton 0
Arsenal 2 (Ljungberg 36, Wiltord 44) Att: 35,000

Wednesday, May 8

Liverpool 4 (Murphy 23, Anelka 39, Hyypia 52, Heskey 86)
Blackburn 3 (Duff 28, Cole 49, Jansen 80) Att: 40,663

Man Utd 0
Arsenal 1 (Wiltord 56) Att: 67,580

Saturday, May 11

Arsenal 4 (Bergkamp 4, Henry 33, 72, Jeffers 81)
Everton 3 (Carsley 20, Radzinski 31, Watson 89) Att: 38,254

Blackburn 3 (Cole 53, 81, Duff 66)
Fulham 0 Att: 30,487

Chelsea 1 (Gudjohnsen pen 70)
Aston Villa 3 (Crouch 21, Vassell 63, Dublin 88) Att: 40,709

Leeds 1 (Smith 63)
Middlesbrough 0 Att: 40,218

Leicester 2 (Dickov 60, Piper 71)
Tottenham 1 (Sheringham pen 54) Att: 21,716

Liverpool 5 (Riise 13, 35, Owen 47, Smicer 57, Anelka 88)
Ipswich 0 Att: 44,088

Man Utd 0
Charlton 0 Att: 67,579

Southampton 3 (Svensson 17, Beattie pen 24, Telfer 90)
Newcastle 1 (Shearer 55) Att: 31,973

Sunderland 1 (Phillips 17)
Derby 1 (Robinson 68) Att: 47,989

West Ham 2 (Lomas 44, Pearce 89)
Bolton 1 (Djorkaeff 67) Att: 35,546

ENGLAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	38	26	9	3	79	36	87
Liverpool	38	24	8	6	67	30	80
Man Utd	38	24	5	9	87	45	77
Newcastle	38	21	8	9	74	52	71
Leeds	38	18	12	8	53	37	66
Chelsea	38	17	13	8	66	38	64
West Ham	38	15	8	15	48	57	53
Aston Villa	38	12	14	12	46	47	50
Tottenham	38	14	8	16	49	53	50
Blackburn	38	12	10	16	55	51	46
Southampton	38	12	9	17	46	54	45
Middlesbrough	38	12	9	17	35	47	45
Fulham	38	10	14	14	36	44	44
Charlton	38	10	14	14	38	49	44
Everton	38	11	10	17	45	57	43
Bolton	38	9	13	16	44	62	40
Sunderland	38	10	10	18	29	51	40
Ipswich	38	9	9	20	41	64	36
Derby	38	8	6	24	33	63	30
Leicester	38	5	13	20	30	64	28

TOP GOALSCORERS
24 Thierry Henry (Arsenal)
23 Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Chelsea)
23 Alan Shearer (Newcastle)
23 Ruud Van Nistelrooy (Man Utd)

FA CUP – semi-finals

Apr 14: Arsenal 1 Middlesbrough 0; Chelsea 1 Fulham 0.

Final

May 4 - Millennium stadium, Cardiff
Arsenal 2 (Parlour 70, Ljungberg 79)
Chelsea 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 73,963. **Ref:** Riley

FRANCE

Saturday, April 6

Bordeaux 2 (Meriem 26, Sanchez 39)
Bastia 1 (Jeunechamp 87) Att: 29,345

Lens 0
Troyes 0 Att: 40,475

Lorient 1 (Guel 71)
Sedan 1 (N'Diefi 90) Att: 12,850

Monaco 2 (Givet 28, 59)
Metz 2 (Bastien pen 38, Adebayor 76) Att: 4,570

Montpellier 2 (Carotti 45, Barbosa 61)
Guingamp 1 (Drogba 25) Att: 12,501

Paris SG 1 (Okocha 55)
Nantes 1 (Quint 39) Att: 43,000

Rennes 4 (Sorlin 1, 70, Arribage 81, Maoulida 90)
Lille 0 Att: 20,587

Sochaux 3 (Saveljic 19, Frau pen 35, 62)
Marseille 0 Att: 19,907

Sunday, April 7

Auxerre 0
Lyon 1 (Govou 90) Att: 16,000

Tuesday, April 9

Metz 2 (Bastien 42, Toyes 90)
Sedan 3 (Mionnet 53, N'Diaye 60, Peyrelade 82) Att: 12,500

Friday, April 12

Marseille 1 (Van Buyten 65)
Paris SG 0 Att: 57,500

Saturday, April 13

Auxerre 2 (Cisse 70, Fadiga 80)
Sochaux 0 Att: 9,000

Bastia 3 (Prince Daye 66, Jau 82, Vairelles 90)
Lens 1 (Sibierski 22) Att: 10,000

Guingamp 2 (Baret 44, Malouda 80)
Bordeaux 1 (Eduardo Costa 84) Att: 15,505

Lille 1 (Bierhoff og 48)
Monaco 1 (Gallardo 37) Att: 18,500

Lyon 0
Montpellier 0 Att: 39,215

Metz 3 (Adebayor 54, Bastien 59, Marchal 68)
Rennes 1 (N'Diaye 14) Att: 17,778

Nantes 2 (Vahirua 51, 59)
Lorient 0 Att: 35,500

Sedan 0
Troyes 0 Att: 18,184

Sunday, April 21

Sedan 3 (N'Diefi 27, 32, Camara 63)
Auxerre 3 (Fadiga 35, Cisse 43, 47) Att: 18,000

Saturday, April 27

Bordeaux 0
Lyon 1 (Anderson 69) Att: 33,000

Lens 4 (Diouf 7, 54, Coulibaly 41, Moreira 56)
Guingamp 1 (Drogba 69) Att: 40,811

Lorient 2 (Darcheville pen 76, Esceth-N'Zi 90)
Marseille 2 (Fernandao 33, Sakho 87) Att: 15,990

Monaco 1 (Nonda 18)
Auxerre 1 (Cisse 67) Att: 10,000

Montpellier 3 (Bamogo 77, Fugier 83, Mansare 88)
Nantes 0 Att: 19,658

Paris SG 2 (Fiorese 61, Ronaldinho 69)
Metz 0 Att: 42,000

Rennes 1 (Monterrubio 71)
Sedan 0 Att: 20,702

Sochaux 0
Lille 0 Att: 17,596

Troyes 3 (Gousse 51, Loko 59, Meniri 82)
Bastia 0 Att: 15,795

Saturday, May 4

Auxerre 2 (Cisse 15, 59)
Rennes 3 (Batlles 3, Piquionne 11, Delaye 63) Att: 18,000

Guingamp 1 (Carnot 62)
Troyes 0 Att: 15,573

Lille 1 (Sterjovski 72)
Paris SG 0 Att: 20,380

Lyon 3 (Govou 8, Violeau 15, Laigle 52)
Lens 1 (Bak 26) Att: 42,000

Marseille 1 (Sakho 50)
Montpellier 0 Att: 40,000

Metz 1 (Jager 7)
Lorient 1 (Darcheville 12) Att: 25,697

Nantes 2 (Savinaud 2, 90)
Bordeaux 1 (Pauleta 89) Att: 35,300

Sedan 0
Bastia 2 (Vairelles 57, 65) Att: 21,228

Sochaux 3 (Saveljic 23, Pierre-Fanfan og 26, Crucet 90)
Monaco 0 Att: 19,482

FRANCE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	34	20	6	8	62	32	66
Lens	34	18	10	6	55	30	64
Auxerre	34	16	11	7	48	38	59
Paris SG	34	15	13	6	43	24	58
Lille	34	15	11	8	39	32	56
Bordeaux	34	14	8	12	34	31	50
Troyes	34	13	8	13	40	35	47
Sochaux	34	12	10	12	41	40	46
Marseille	34	11	11	12	34	39	44
Nantes	34	12	7	15	35	41	43
Bastia	34	12	5	17	38	44	41
Rennes	34	11	8	15	40	51	41
Montpellier	34	9	13	12	28	31	40
Sedan	34	8	15	11	35	39	39
Monaco	34	9	12	13	36	41	39
Guingamp	34	9	8	17	34	57	35
Metz	34	9	6	19	31	47	33
Lorient	34	7	10	17	43	64	31

TOP GOALSCORERS
22 Djibril Cisse (Auxerre)
22 Pauleta (Bordeaux)
19 Jean-Claude Darcheville (Lorient)
15 Nicolas Gousse (Troyes)

FRENCH CUP – Final

May 11 - Stade de France, Saint-Denis
Bastia 0
Lorient 1 (Darcheville 41)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Poulat

LEAGUE CUP – Final

Apr 20 - Stade de France, Saint-Denis
Bordeaux 3 (Pauleta 5, 60, Meriem 42)
Lorient 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 75,923. **Ref:** Sars

GERMANY

Saturday, April 6

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Butt pen 13, Lucio 25)
Koln 0 Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 2 (Pizarro 21, Santa Cruz 55)
Werder Bremen 2 (Ailton pen 23, Krstajic 90) Att: 44,000

Energie Cottbus 3 (Topic 31, Kaluzny 34, 70)
Borussia MG 3 (Asanin 37, Munch pen 64, Piplica og 85) Att: 18,450

Hansa Rostock 1 (Arvidsson 3)
Nurnberg 0 Att: 19,200

Schalke 2 (Mpenza 8, Sand 39)
Hamburg 0 Att: 60,683

St Pauli 1 (Meggle pen 69)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Lincoln 49) Att: 20,499

Wolfsburg 1 (Klimowicz 36)
Hertha 3 (Hartmann 25, Preetz 28, Marx 48) Att: 14,000

Sunday, April 7

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Kehl 20, Heinrich 26)
1860 Munich 1 (Schroth 12) Att: 66,000

Freiburg 0
Stuttgart 2 (Fernando Meira 79, Handschuh 87) Att: 25,000

Saturday, April 13

Borussia MG 0
Wolfsburg 2 (Klimowicz 48, 60) Att: 26,900

Hamburg 1 (Barbarez 5)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Neuville 13) Att: 54,503

Hertha 1 (Alves 2)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 42,537

Koln 2 (Lottner 7, Scherz 90)
St Pauli 1 (Inceman 46) Att: 26,000

1860 Munich 5 (Suker 24, Riseth 28, Max 45, pen 89, Cerny 49)
Freiburg 2 (But 31, Muller 66) Att: 20,700

Nurnberg 1 (Krzynowek pen 73)
Bayern Munich 2 (Elber 11, Pizarro 41) Att: 44,696

Werder Bremen 3 (Baumann 24, Ailton 64, Frings 77)
Schalke 0 Att: 35,600

Sunday, April 14

Kaiserslautern 1 (Pettersson 48)
Borussia Dortmund 0 Att: 40,600

Stuttgart 0
Energie Cottbus 0 Att: 18,000

Friday, April 19

St Pauli 0
Hamburg 4 (Romeo 18, 58, Groth 45, Hoogma 49) Att: 54,130

Saturday, April 20

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Ze Roberto 32)
Werder Bremen 2 (Lisztes 5, Ailton 62) Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 3 (Hartmann og 67, Elber 82, Pizarro 83)
Hertha 0 Att: 63,000

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Rosicky 21, Amoroso pen 89)
Koln 1 (Lottner 56) Att: 68,600

Energie Cottbus 1 (Helbig 81)
1860 Munich 1 (Hujdurovic og 68) Att: 16,000

Schalke 2 (Bohme 54, Waldoch 66)
Nurnberg 1 (Krzynowek 62) Att: 60,683

Wolfsburg 4 (Klimowicz 4, 6, Ponte 8, Juskowiak 37)
Hansa Rostock 0 Att: 12,615

Sunday, April 21

Borussia MG 2 (Van Houdt 68, Aidoo 80)
Stuttgart 2 (Balakov 48, Dundee 84) Att: 29,000

Freiburg 3 (Kobiashvili pen 47, Sellimi 78, Manner 80)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Klose 84) Att: 15,000

Saturday, April 27

Hamburg 3 (Wicky pen 42, Hoogma 80, Meijer 90)
Borussia Dortmund 4 (Amoroso pen 36, 63, Rosicky 38, Koller 87)

Hansa Rostock 1 (Hill 9)
Borussia MG 1 (Demo 17) Att: 18,000

Hertha 2 (Preetz 50, Alves 53)
Schalke 0 Att: 55,000

Kaiserslautern 4 (Lokvenc 25, 48, Klose 37, 47)
Energie Cottbus 0 Att: 40,600

Koln 2 (Cullmann 27, Scherz 86)
Freiburg 0 Att: 30,000

1860 Munich 3 (Max pen 52, 59, Borimirov 78)
Stuttgart 3 (Dundee 20, Meissner 45, 62) Att: 18,000

Nurnberg 1 (Nikl 23)
Bayer Leverkusen 0 Att: 44,416

Werder Bremen 3 (Frings 50, 78, Ailton 54)
St Pauli 2 (Rahn 5, Meggle 16) Att: 35,600

Wolfsburg 0
Bayern Munich 1 (Biliskov og 33) Att: 21,600

Saturday, May 4

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Ballack 10, 52)
Hertha 1 (Beinlich 83) Att: 22,500

Bayern Munich 3 (Baumgart og 39, Scholl 55, Elber 83)
Hansa Rostock 2 (Hansen 82, Lantz 89) Att: 63,000

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Koller 41, Ewerthon 74)
Werder Bremen 1 (Stalteri 18) Att: 68,600

Borussia MG 2 (Demo 6, Van Lent 66)
1860 Munich 4 (Bierofka 25, 46, Suker 64, 70) Att: 34,500

Energie Cottbus 2 (Topic 81, Reichenberger 87)
Koln 3 (Kurth 35, Lottner 56, 62) Att: 19,425

Freiburg 4 (Fukal og 28, Coulibaly 36, 76, 84)
Hamburg 3 (Cardoso 26, Romeo 43, 70) Att: 25,000

Schalke 1 (Asamoah 90)
Wolfsburg 2 (Maric 29, 81) Att: 60,683

St Pauli 2 (Patschinski 19, 90)
Nurnberg 3 (Junior 15, Michalke 21, 67) Att: 20,500

Stuttgart 4 (Meissner 42, 66, Dundee 46, Ganea 73)
Kaiserslautern 3 (Lincoln pen 45, Hristov 60, Klose 71) Att: 30,000

GERMANY – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Dortmund	34	21	7	6	62	33	70
B Leverkusen	34	21	6	7	77	38	69
Bayern Munich	34	20	8	6	65	25	68
Hertha	34	18	7	9	61	38	61
Schalke	34	18	7	9	52	36	61
Werder Bremen	34	17	5	12	54	43	56
Kaiserslautern	34	17	5	12	62	53	56
Stuttgart	34	13	11	10	47	43	50
1860 Munich	34	15	5	14	59	59	50
Wolfsburg	34	13	7	14	57	49	46
Hamburg	34	10	10	14	51	57	40
Borussia MG	34	9	12	13	41	53	39
Energie Cottbus	34	9	8	17	36	60	35
Hansa Rostock	34	9	7	18	35	54	34
Nurnberg	34	10	4	20	34	57	34
Freiburg	34	7	9	18	37	64	30
Koln	34	7	8	19	26	61	29
St Pauli	34	4	10	20	37	70	22

TOP GOALSCORERS
18 Marcio Amoroso (Borussia Dortmund)
18 Martin Max (1860 Munich)
17 Michael Ballack (Bayer Leverkusen)
17 Giovane Elber (Bayern Munich)

GERMAN CUP – Final

May 11 - Olympiastadion, Berlin
Schalke 4 (Bohme 45, Agali 68, Moller 71, Sand 85)
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Berbatov 27, Kirsten 89)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Wack
Sent off: Agali (Schalke) 90min

GREECE

Apr 7: Aris 0 AEK 3; Ethnikos A 1 Aigaleo 0; Iraklis 3 Panahaiki 0; Olympiakos 2 Akratitos 2; Panionios 2 Xanthi 0; OFI 4 PAOK 1.
Apr 14: Aris 1 Panionios 1; Xanthi 1 Ethnikos A 0; Aigaleo 1 Panathinaikos 4; Panahaiki 1 Olympiakos 3; AEK 3 Iraklis 0; Ionikos 2 OFI 1; PAOK 6 Akratitos 3.
Apr 20: Panathinaikos 3 Xanthi 1; Olympiakos 4 AEK 3.
Apr 21: Panionios 4 Ethnikos A 0; Iraklis 2 Aris 1; OFI 2 Aigaleo 1; PAOK 3 Panahaiki 2; Akratitos 2 Ionikos 0.
Apr 24: Panathinaikos 5 Ionikos 3.
May 8: Iraklis 1 Panionios 1; Ethnikos A 1 Panathinaikos 2; Aris 1 Olympiakos 5; AEK 6 PAOK 2; Aigaleo 2 Akratitos 1; Ionikos 0 Panahaiki 2; Xanthi 2 OFI 1.

GREECE – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	26	17	7	2	69	30	58
AEK	26	19	1	6	65	28	58
Panathinaikos	26	16	7	3	53	25	55
PAOK	26	14	6	6	55	45	48
Xanthi	26	12	6	8	34	26	42
Iraklis	26	9	9	8	32	35	36
Panionios	26	8	11	7	37	33	35
OFI	26	9	6	11	32	35	33
Aris	26	7	8	11	25	34	29
Aigaleo	26	7	5	14	27	46	26
Akratitos	26	6	5	15	29	41	23
Ionikos	26	5	7	14	21	47	22
Panahaiki	26	3	9	14	26	55	18
Ethnikos A	26	4	5	17	19	44	17

HOLLAND

Friday, April 5

Twente 2 (Cairo 12, Van de Paar 45)
Sparta 0 Att: 13,250

Saturday, April 6

De Graafschap 3 (Van Leerdam 18, Van der Haar 65, Schulp 90)
RKC 1 (Hoogendorp pen 78) Att: 11,000

Roda JC 0
AZ 0 Att: 14,500

Vitesse 0
Heerenveen 0 Att: 26,500

Willem II 3 (Sektioui 27, 63, 82)
Fortuna 0 Att: 13,300

Sunday, April 7

Den Bosch 0
PSV 1 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 55) Att: 6,100

Feyenoord 0
NAC 0 Att: 38,250

Groningen 2 (Boussaboun 12, Robben 39)
NEC 2 (Hesp pen 52, De Nooijer 87) Att: 12,368

Saturday, April 13

AZ 2 (Perez 1, Opdam 17)
Willem II 2 (Sektioui 28, Landzaat pen 84) Att: 7,290

De Graafschap 1 (Bot 48)
Heerenveen 2 (Frankel og 46, Allback 90) Att: 11,000

Den Bosch 3 (De Freitas 55, 83, Mghizrat 81)
Roda JC 1 (Soetaers 58) Att: 5,784

Fortuna 2 (Hamming 52, Gerritsen 90)
Twente 0 Att: 4,000

NAC 1 (Bobson 33)
NEC 3 (Tumba 35, Demouge 56, 75) Att: 14,326

Sunday, April 14

Groningen 0
Vitesse 1 (Amoah 64) Att: 12,104

PSV 2 (Kezman 45, 69)
Feyenoord 0 Att: 31,500

RKC 1 (Cornelisse 53)
Utrecht 2 (Gluscevic 32, Roest 86) Att: 7,300

Sparta 0
Ajax 4 (Hossam 33, 66, 73, Ibrahimovic 78) Att: 9,427

Friday, April 19

Fortuna 1 (Hamming 40)
Feyenoord 2 (Van Hooijdonk 23, Paauwe 63) Att: 12,000

Saturday, April 20

Heerenveen 0
Roda JC 0 Att: 14,300

RKC 4 (Cornelisse 48, Janssen 54, Hoogendorp 60, Peto og 90)
NAC 1 (Peto 90) Att: 7,200

Sparta 0
Vitesse 1 (Sikora 16) Att: 7,926

Twente 1 (Pothuizen 45)
PSV 1 (Bruggink 49) Att: 13,250

Willem II 2 (Shoukov 43, Bombarda 58)
De Graafschap 2 (Meerdink 17, Valeev 39) Att: 13,700

Sunday, April 21

Ajax 1 (Hossam 41)
Utrecht 0 Att: 33,850

NEC 2 (De Nooijer 82, Latuheru pen 90)
Den Bosch 1 (Van den Eede 52) Att: 9,500

Wednesday, April 24

Heerenveen 2 (Hakansson 48, 69)
Groningen 0 Att: 14,400

PSV 6 (Kezman 10, 31, Van Bommel 36, 55, Bruggink 61, Ooijer 72)
Willem II 0 Att: 33,000

Utrecht 3 (Gluscevic 52, Kuijt 63, Moens og 69)
AZ 2 (Huiberts 45, Nelisse 55) Att: 13,000

Thursday, April 25

De Graafschap 1 (Valeev 66)
Feyenoord 0 Att: 11,000

Sunday, April 28

Ajax 2 (Machlas 4, 73)
Den Bosch 0 Att: 40,123

AZ 5 (Bosman 4, 35, Nelisse 55, 64, 73)
NEC 0 Att: 7,175

Feyenoord 3 (Bosvelt 27, 59, 64)
Heerenveen 2 (Allback 28, Lurling 48) Att: 45,000

Groningen 2 (Robben 65, Van Gessel pen 90)
De Graafschap 0 Att: 12,551

NAC 3 (Stewart 45, Bobson 86, Feher 89)
Fortuna 1 (Van Dieren 62) Att: 10,344

PSV 3 (Vennegoor of Hesselink 30, Van Bommel 45, Ramzi 52)
Sparta 0 Att: 33,000

Roda JC 1 (Tomasic 88)
RKC 0 Att: 14,500

Twente 2 (Van der Doelen 60, De Gier 67)
Utrecht 0 Att: 13,250

Vitesse 4 (Martel 14, Diarra 32, Stefanovic 57, Amoah 83)
Willem II 2 (Mariana 11, Sektioui 78) Att: 25,250

Sunday, May 5

De Graafschap 2 (Meerdink 10, 31)
PSV 2 (Rommedahl 60, Kezman 65) Att: 11,000

Den Bosch 0
AZ 1 (Dibi 73) Att: 4,626

Fortuna 0
Roda JC 0 Att: 5,500

Heerenveen 0
Twente 0 Att: 14,400

NEC 0
Ajax 2 (Hossam 25, Van der Meyde 45) Att: 12,500

RKC 3 (Janssen 40, Y Cornelisse 71, Fuchs 73)
Vitesse 2 (Amoah 11, T Cornelisse 89) Att: 7,000

Sparta 0
Groningen 0 Att: 7,164

Utrecht 0
NAC 0 Att: 13,300

Willem II 0
Feyenoord 0 Att: 14,400

HOLLAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	34	22	7	5	73	34	73
PSV	34	20	8	6	77	32	68
Feyenoord	34	19	7	8	68	29	64
Heerenveen	34	17	9	8	57	27	60
Vitesse	34	16	12	6	45	34	60
NAC	34	15	9	10	55	52	54
Utrecht	34	14	9	11	60	51	51
RKC	34	14	6	14	49	44	48
NEC	34	13	6	15	38	59	45
AZ	34	12	7	15	43	45	43
Willem II	34	10	13	11	54	61	43
Twente	34	10	12	12	41	41	42
Roda JC	34	11	8	15	33	45	41
De Graafschap	34	10	7	17	43	55	37
Groningen	34	10	7	17	40	59	37
Den Bosch	34	8	9	17	40	55	33
Sparta	34	4	12	18	26	75	24
Fortuna	34	3	8	23	27	71	17

TOP GOALSCORERS
24 Pierre Van Hooijdonk (Feyenoord)
22 Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink (PSV)
17 Jon Dahl Tomasson (Feyenoord)

DUTCH CUP – semi-final

Apr 10: Ajax 3 PSV 0.

Final

May 12 - De Kuip stadium, Rotterdam
Utrecht 2 (Gluscevic 56, pen 76)
Ajax 3 (Hossam 21, Wamberto 90, Ibrahimovic 95 - golden goal)
Aet. **HT:** 0-1. **90mins:** 2-2. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** Temmink

ITALY

Saturday, April 6

Torino 1 (Scarchilli 20)
Bologna 1 (Cruz 51) Att: 18,262

Sunday, April 7

Brescia 0
Verona 0 Att: 14,989

Chievo 1 (Moro 22)
Milan 1 (Inzaghi 13) Att: 26,372

Inter 1 (Vieri 47)
Atalanta 2 (Sala 43, Berretta 63) Att: 67,023

Lazio 1 (Fiore 68)
Lecce 0 Att: 35,856

Parma 2 (Diana 25, Hakan 76)
Udinese 0 Att: 16,624

Perugia 0
Juventus 4 (Trezeguet 9, Del Piero pen 45, 62, C Zenoni 57) Att: 19,835

Piacenza 3 (Matuzalem 28, Volpi 40, Hubner 45)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 6,700

Venezia 2 (Maniero 60, De Franceschi 80)
Roma 2 (Montella pen 87, pen 90) Att: 10,982

Sunday, April 14

Atalanta 1 (Berretta 15)
Torino 1 (Franco 50) Att: 14,876

Bologna 1 (Fresi 63)
Piacenza 2 (Tosto 4, Di Francesco 50) Att: 21,871

Fiorentina 0
Lazio 1 (Castroman 24) Att: 14,343

Inter 2 (Ronaldo 79, 82)
Brescia 1 (Guardiola pen 29) Att: 69,161

Juventus 1 (Chamot og 79)
Milan 0 Att: 52,505

Lecce 2 (Chevanton 27, 40)
Chievo 3 (Legrottaglie 17, Perrotta 70, Eriberto 79) Att: 10,747

Roma 3 (Delvecchio 7, Cassano 40, Samuel 46)
Parma 1 (Lamouchi 42) Att: 61,870

Venezia 0
Perugia 2 (Baiocco 37, Bazzani 39) Att: 6,288

Verona 1 (Frick 32)
Udinese 0 Att: 17,235

Sunday, April 21

Brescia 3 (Toni 35, Baggio 74, 87)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 15,013

Chievo 2 (Marazzina 42, Cossato 90)
Inter 2 (Dalmat 46, Ronaldo 60) Att: 36,997

Lazio 5 (Stam 28, Claudio Lopez pen 32, Stankovic 45, 51, Crespo 71)
Verona 4 (Frick 10, L Colucci 79, Cossato 88, Adailton 90) Att: 38,685

Milan 0
Roma 0 Att: 73,524

Parma 1 (Micoud 90)
Atalanta 1 (Comandini pen 39) Att: 16,696

Perugia 1 (Ze Maria pen 51)
Bologna 0 Att: 7,113

Piacenza 0
Juventus 1 (Nedved 88) Att: 18,778

Torino 1 (Franco 76)
Lecce 1 (Popescu 35) Att: 16,243

Udinese 1 (Pizarro pen 31)
Venezia 0 Att: 13,606

Sunday, April 28

Atalanta 2 (Blasi og 35, Zauri 68)
Perugia 1 (Tedesco 15) Att: 16,199

Bologna 2 (Signori 50, Pecchia 88)
Lazio 0 Att: 28,869

Fiorentina 1 (Adriano 4)
Parma 2 (Di Vaio 81, 90) Att: 13,054

Inter 3 (Cordoba 7, Recoba 70, Ronaldo 79)
Piacenza 1 (Matuzalem 35) Att: 75,720

Juventus 5 (Trezeguet 8, 75, 89, Del Piero 71, 80)
Brescia 0 Att: 49,763

Lecce 1 (Giacomazzi 69)
Udinese 2 (Di Michele 55, pen 88) Att: 10,205

Roma 5 (Montella 25, 33, pen 51, Emerson 74, Cassano 81)
Chievo 0 Att: 68,678

Venezia 1 (Maniero pen 7)
Torino 1 (Galante 90) Att: 6,908

Verona 1 (Mutu 28)
Milan 2 (Inzaghi 65, Pirlo 82) Att: 22,314

Sunday, May 5

Brescia 3 (Bachini 49, Baggio 74, Toni 88)
Bologna 0 Att: 23,000

Chievo 2 (Corradi 58, Cossato 74)
Atalanta 1 (Rossini 52) Att: 11,560

Lazio 4 (Poborsky 19, 45, Simeone 55, Inzaghi 73)
Inter 2 (Vieri 12, Di Biagio 24) Att: 75,000

Milan 3 (Kaladze 7, Ambrosini 44, Shevchenko 48)
Lecce 0 Att: 70,000

Parma 2 (Di Vaio pen 45, Micoud 80)
Venezia 1 (Maniero 7) Att: 15,000

Perugia 2 (Bazzani 9, Ze Maria 26)
Fiorentina 0 Att: 8,000

Piacenza 3 (Volpi 25, Hubner pen 47, 83)
Verona 0 Att: 15,000

Torino 0
Roma 1 (Cassano 68) Att: 35,000

Udinese 0
Juventus 2 (Trezeguet 2, Del Piero 11) Att: 35,000

ITALY – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	34	20	11	3	64	23	71
Roma	34	19	13	2	58	24	70
Inter	34	20	9	5	62	35	69
Milan	34	14	13	7	47	33	55
Chievo	34	14	12	8	57	52	54
Lazio	34	14	11	9	50	37	53
Bologna	34	15	7	12	40	40	52
Perugia	34	13	7	14	38	46	46
Atalanta	34	12	9	13	41	50	45
Parma	34	12	8	14	43	47	44
Torino	34	10	13	11	37	39	43
Piacenza	34	11	9	14	49	43	42
Brescia	34	9	13	12	43	52	40
Udinese	34	11	7	16	41	52	40
Verona	34	11	6	17	41	53	39
Lecce	34	6	10	18	36	56	28
Fiorentina	34	5	7	22	29	63	22
Venezia	34	3	9	22	30	61	18

TOP GOALSCORERS
24 Dario Hubner (Piacenza)
24 David Trezeguet (Juventus)
22 Christian Vieri (Inter)
20 Marco Di Vaio (Parma)

ITALIAN CUP – Final

1st leg - Apr 25 - Stadio Delle Alpi, Turin
Juventus 2 (Amoruso pen 5, Zalayeta 57)
Parma 1 (Nakata 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,874. **Ref:** Collina

2nd leg - May 10 - Stadio Ennio Tardini, Parma
Parma 1 (Junior 4)
Juventus 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,864. **Ref:** Paparesta
Agg 2-2. Parma on away goals

NORWAY

Apr 13: Molde 2 Brann 0.
Apr 14: Bryne 0 Lyn 1; Lillestrom 2 Viking 0; Moss 3 Sogndal 3; Start 1 Stabaek 1; Valerenga 1 Bodo/Glimt 1; Rosenborg 0 Odd Grenland 1.
Apr 20: Stabaek 0 Valerenga 0.
Apr 21: Bodo/Glimt 4 Bryne 0; Brann 0 Moss 1; Lyn 2 Lillestrom 0; Odd Grenland 1 Molde 1; Sogndal 0 Start 0; Viking 2 Rosenborg 0.
Apr 27: Rosenborg 5 Lyn 1.
Apr 28: Bodo/Glimt 2 Stabaek 0; Bryne 1 Lillestrom 1; Molde 3 Viking 0; Moss 0 Odd Grenland 1; Valerenga 2 Sogndal 0; Start 2 Brann 2.
May 1: Brann 0 Valerenga 4; Lillestrom 0 Rosenborg 1; Lyn 3 Molde 1; Odd Grenland 2 Start 0; Sogndal 0 Bodo/Glimt 2; Stabaek 2 Bryne 1; Viking 4 Moss 1.
May 4: Molde 0 Lillestrom 0.
May 5: Bodo/Glimt 0 Brann 1; Bryne 2 Rosenborg 1; Moss 0 Lyn 2; Stabaek 4 Sogndal 0; Start 1 Viking 1; Valerenga 2 Odd Grenland 0.
May 8: Lyn 1 Start 0; Odd Grenland 2 Bodo/Glimt 3; Viking 4 Valerenga 1.
May 9: Brann 4 Stabaek 1; Lillestrom 1 Moss 1; Rosenborg 3 Molde 0.
May 11: Bodo/Glimt 0 Viking 0; Valerenga 1 Lyn 2.
May 12: Bryne 0 Molde 2; Moss 2 Rosenborg 2; Sogndal 2 Brann 3; Stabaek 1 Odd Grenland 0; Start 0 Lillestrom 2.
May 16: Brann 1 Bryne 2; Lillestrom 1 Valerenga 1; Lyn 3 Bodo/Glimt 1; Molde 5 Moss 1; Odd Grenland 4 Sogndal 2; Rosenborg 4 Start 2; Viking 3 Stabaek 3.
May 20: Sogndal 3 Bryne 2.

NORWAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyn	8	7	0	1	15	8	21
Molde	8	4	2	2	14	8	14
Bodo/Glimt	8	4	2	2	13	7	14
Rosenborg	8	4	1	3	16	10	13
Odd Grenland	8	4	1	3	11	9	13
Valerenga	8	3	3	2	12	8	12
Viking	8	3	3	2	14	11	12
Stabaek	8	3	3	2	12	11	12
Lillestrom	8	2	4	2	7	6	10
Brann	8	3	1	4	11	14	10
Bryne	8	2	1	5	8	15	7
Moss	8	1	3	4	9	18	6
Sogndal	8	1	2	5	10	20	5
Start	8	0	4	4	6	13	4

POLAND

CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

Apr 5: Legia 3 Polonia 0.
Apr 6: Ruch Chorzow 2 Katowice 0; Odra 2 Amica 2.
Apr 7: Pogon 1 Wisla 2.
Apr 12: Amica 0 Legia 0.
Apr 13: Ruch Chorzow 1 Wisla 2; Polonia 2 Odra 1; Pogon 0 Katowice 1.
Apr 19: Wisla 4 Polonia 1.
Apr 20: Legia 1 Pogon 0; Odra 3 Ruch Chorzow 1.
Apr 21: Katowice 0 Amica 1.
Apr 24: Wisla 1 Legia 1; Polonia 5 Pogon 0; Odra 0 Katowice 0; Ruch Chorzow 2 Amica 1.
Apr 28: Legia 0 Odra 0; Katowice 0 Wisla 1; Pogon 1 Ruch Chorzow 1; Amica 4 Polonia 0.
May 4: Wisla 1 Amica 0; Ruch Chorzow 1 Legia 1; Odra 1 Pogon 1; Polonia 0 Katowice 0.

POLAND: CHAMP'SHIP POOL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Legia	14	7	7	0	19	10	42 [14]
Wisla	14	8	3	3	22	14	41 [14]
Amica	14	7	3	4	21	11	36 [12]
Polonia	14	5	4	5	16	19	32 [13]
Odra	14	2	5	7	12	19	27 [16]
Katowice	14	4	5	5	10	15	26 [9]
Ruch Chorzow	14	3	4	7	14	18	23 [10]
Pogon	14	2	5	7	9	17	23 [12]

Teams carried forward half their points (figure in brackets) from regular season

PORTUGAL

Friday, April 5

Boavista 2 (Serginho 7, Martelinho 67)
Salgueiros 1 (Mario Loja og 56)

Saturday, April 6

Farense 0
FC Porto 3 (Clayton 12, 50, Alenichev 63)

Santa Clara 0
Benfica 0

Sunday, April 7

Gil Vicente 3 (Lemos 8, Paulo Alves 16, Manoel 58)
Belenenses 2 (Ricardo Sousa 11, Cesar Peixoto pen 63)

Guimaraes 0
Beira Mar 0

Pacos Ferreira 0
Varzim 0

Sporting Lisbon 4 (Joao Pinto 20, Jardel 26, pen 90, Andre Cruz 87)
Maritimo 0

Uniao Leiria 2 (Derlei 13, 74)
Alverca 1 (Renato og 47)

Monday, April 8

Sporting Braga 1 (Odair 29)
Setubal 1 (Hugo Henrique pen 90)

Friday, April 12

Maritimo 0
Boavista 0

Saturday, April 13

FC Porto 3 (McCarthy 12, 21, Deco 89)
Guimaraes 0

Varzim 1 (Gilmar 68)
Sporting Lisbon 3 (Jardel 29, pen 65, Joao Pinto 59)

Sunday, April 14

Alverca 1 (Quinzinho 10)
Gil Vicente 4 (Douala 33, Paulo Alves 47, Joca 56, Ricardo Fernandes 89)

Beira Mar 4 (Fary 5, 26, Lobao 35, Geraldo 74)
Sporting Braga 2 (Barroso 4, Barata 44)

Belenenses 4 (Cesar Peixoto 34, Verona 58, Neca 69, Marcao 81)
Farense 0

Benfica 4 (Andersson 24, Miguel 41, 69, Jankauskas 81)
Pacos Ferreira 0

Salgueiros 0
Uniao Leiria 1 (Derlei 69)

Setubal 3 (Hugo Henrique 41, Sandro og 75, Meyong 81)
Santa Clara 2 (Sandro 64, Figueiredo 84)

Friday, April 19

Guimaraes 2 (Andre 37, Fangueiro pen 55)
Belenenses 1 (Marcao 9)

Saturday, April 20

Boavista 1 (Serginho 13)
Varzim 2 (Vinicius 4, pen 23)

Sporting Braga 0
FC Porto 4 (McCarthy 33, 39, 74, Helder Postiga 89)

Sunday, April 21

Farense 2 (Hassan Nader pen 41, Rodri 89)
Alverca 1 (Ramires 15)

Gil Vicente 0
Uniao Leiria 0

Pacos Ferreira 1 (Carlos Carneiro 11)
Setubal 0

Santa Clara 0
Beira Mar 0

Sporting Lisbon 1 (Jardel pen 89)
Benfica 1 (Jankauskas 73)

Monday, April 22

Maritimo 4 (Danny 29, 90, Eric Gaucho pen 34, 45)
Salgueiros 0

Friday, April 26

Belenenses 1 (Verona 90)
Sporting Braga 1 (Barata 67)

Saturday, April 27

FC Porto 5 (McCarthy 38, 60, 75, Deco 49, 54)
Santa Clara 3 (Tonito 35, Miner 45, Gabor Vayer 56)

Setubal 2 (Sandro 39, Hugo Henrique 41)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Jardel 31, 49)

Sunday, April 28

Beira Mar 0
Pacos Ferreira 2 (Beto 39, Ze Manuel 86)

Benfica 2 (Argel 54, Mantorras 81)
Boavista 1 (Sanchez 40)

Gil Vicente 3 (Lemos 29, Paulo Alves 45, pen 50)
Salgueiros 2 (Joao Pedro 88, 90)

Uniao Leiria 4 (Derlei 25, Jacques 41, 85, Maciel 58)
Farense 1 (Djurdjevic 23)

Varzim 0
Maritimo 1 (Eric Gaucho 24)

Monday, April 29

Alverca 3 (Quinzinho 21, Rui Borges 52, Vargas 86)
Guimaraes 2 (Romeu 29, Hugo Cunha 78)

Sunday, May 5

Boavista 4 (Petit 25, Frechaut 40, Alexandre 79, Martelinho 85)
Setubal 1 (Hugo Henrique 37)

Farense 3 (Hassan Nader 39, pen 56, Carlos Costa 69)
Gil Vicente 2 (Manoel 21, 27)

Guimaraes 2 (Pedro Mendes 12, Fangueiro 25)
Uniao Leiria 4 (Eder pen 39, Jacques 58, 65, 80)

Maritimo 3 (Eric Gaucho 52, pen 86, Kenedy 73)
Benfica 2 (Mantorras 38, 56)

Pacos Ferreira 1 (Leonardo 45)
FC Porto 2 (Deco 35, McCarthy 46)

Salgueiros 2 (Marco Claudio 11, Toy 89)
Varzim 1 (Prokopenko 43)

Santa Clara 2 (Figueiredo 26, Hanuch 41)
Belenenses 3 (Neca pen 57, 70, Wilson 88)

Sporting Braga 5 (Barata 25, 31, 33, 67, 76)
Alverca 3 (Manu 83, Ruteski 86, Ramires 89)

Sporting Lisbon 2 (Jardel 29, 88)
Beira Mar 1 (Fary pen 69)

PORTUGAL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting Lisbon	34	22	9	3	74	25	75
Boavista	34	21	7	6	53	20	70
FC Porto	34	21	5	8	66	34	68
Benfica	34	17	12	5	66	37	63
Belenenses	34	17	6	11	54	44	57
Maritimo	34	17	5	12	48	35	56
Uniao Leiria	34	15	10	9	52	35	55
Pacos Ferreira	34	12	10	12	41	44	46
Guimaraes	34	11	9	14	35	41	42
Sporting Braga	34	10	12	12	43	43	42
Beira Mar	34	10	9	15	48	56	39
Gil Vicente	34	10	8	16	42	56	38
Setubal	34	9	11	14	40	46	38
Santa Clara	34	9	10	15	32	46	37
Varzim	34	8	8	18	27	55	32
Salgueiros	34	8	6	20	29	71	30
Farense	34	7	7	20	29	63	28
Alverca	34	7	6	21	39	67	27

TOP GOALSCORERS
42 Mario Jardel (Sporting Lisbon)
21 Derlei (Uniao Leiria)
18 Fary Faye (Beira Mar)

PORTUGUESE CUP – Final

May 12 - National stadium, Lisbon
Leixoes 0
Sporting Lisbon 1 (Jardel 40)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Benquerenca

ROMANIA

Apr 6: Arges 3 Gloria 0; Brasov 1 U Craiova 1; Ceahlaul 2 Bacau 0; Dinamo 1 Farul 1; UM Timisoara 3 Sportul 3; Otelul 1 Steaua 0.
Apr 7: Petrolul 0 National 0; Rapid 1 Astra 1.
Apr 13: Gloria 1 Petrolul 0; National 1 Brasov 0; Astra 1 UM Timisoara 0; Bacau 1 Rapid 0; Farul 0 Otelul 2; Sportul 1 Dinamo 0.
Apr 14: U Craiova 0 Ceahlaul 1; Steaua 0 Arges 1.
Apr 20: Brasov 0 Gloria 0; Ceahlaul 1 National 1; Dinamo 1 Astra 1; Farul 0 Sportul 0; Otelul 2 Arges 1; Rapid 3 U Craiova 2; UM Timisoara 2 Bacau 4.
Apr 21: Petrolul 1 Steaua 1.
Apr 27: Arges 1 Petrolul 1; Gloria 2 Ceahlaul 0; U Craiova 0 UM Timisoara 0; Astra 1 Farul 0; Bacau 4 Dinamo 2; National 1 Rapid 0.
Apr 28: Sportul 2 Otelul 1; Steaua 4 Brasov 0.
May 1: Brasov 2 Arges 0; Ceahlaul 0 Steaua 1; Dinamo 2 U Craiova 0; Farul 2 Bacau 3; Petrolul 1 Otelul 2; Rapid 5 Gloria 0; Sportul 1 Astra 2; UM Timisoara 0 National 1.
May 4: Arges 1 Ceahlaul 0; Bacau 2 Sportul 2; Gloria 3 UM Timisoara 1; U Craiova 3 Farul 0; Otelul 0 Astra 0; National 1 Dinamo 0; Petrolul 2 Brasov 2; Steaua 2 Rapid 1.
May 15: Astra 1 Bacau 0; Brasov 1 Otelul 0; Ceahlaul 1 Petrolul 2; Dinamo 1 Gloria 0; Farul 0 National 3; Rapid 1 Arges 1; Sportul 2 U Craiova 3; UM Timisoara 0 Steaua 3.
May 18: Arges 4 UM Timisoara 1; Gloria 2 Farul 1; Brasov 2 Ceahlaul 0; U Craiova 1 Astra 0; Otelul 2 Bacau 1; National 1 Sportul 1; Petrolul 0 Rapid 2.
May 19: Steaua 2 Dinamo 2.
May 22: Astra 0 National 1; Bacau 0 U Craiova 0; Ceahlaul 2 Otelul 1; Dinamo 2 Arges 1; Farul 0 Steaua 2; Rapid 1 Brasov 1; Sportul 2 Gloria 0; UM Timisoara 2 Petrolul 2.

ROMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
National	28	15	10	3	41	17	55
Dinamo	28	15	9	4	57	32	54
Steaua	28	15	4	9	45	28	49
Rapid*	28	14	6	8	48	29	47
Otelul	28	13	7	8	31	21	46
Bacau	28	13	4	11	40	38	43
U Craiova	28	11	8	9	37	32	41
Arges	28	11	5	12	32	35	38
Gloria	28	12	2	14	27	38	38
Ceahlaul	28	11	4	13	33	36	37
Astra	28	9	9	10	27	25	36
Brasov	28	9	9	10	27	29	36
Sportul	28	8	6	14	35	49	30
Farul	28	7	7	14	29	42	28
Petrolul	28	5	10	13	27	44	25
UM Timisoara	28	3	6	19	23	64	15

**1pt deducted for non-completion of fixture, reduced from 5pts on appeal*

RUSSIA

Apr 6: Spartak 2 Rotor 0; Alaniya 1 Torpedo M 1.
Apr 7: Uralan 3 CSKA 3; Saturn 1 Anzhi 1; Zenit 1 Shinnik 1; Torpedo-ZIL 0 Lokomotiv M 2; Sokol 0 Kryliya Sovetov 0; Dinamo 5 Rostselmash 0.
Apr 12: Torpedo M 1 Spartak 2.
Apr 13: Lokomotiv M 3 Dinamo 0; Shinnik 2 Sokol 1; Rostselmash 1 Torpedo-ZIL 1; Kryliya Sovetov 1 Zenit 0; Anzhi 1 Uralan 1; Rotor 2 Alaniya 1; CSKA 2 Saturn 3.
Apr 20: Uralan 2 Rotor 0; Alaniya 1 Anzhi 1; Saturn 0 Torpedo M 0; Zenit 1 Lokomotiv M 1; Sokol 1 Rostselmash 2; Dinamo 0 Kryliya Sovetov 1.
Apr 21: Spartak 0 CSKA 3; Torpedo-ZIL 1 Shinnik 0.
Apr 27: Lokomotiv M 2 Shinnik 1; Torpedo M 3 Anzhi 0.
Apr 28: Kryliya Sovetov 3 Rostselmash 2; Uralan 1 Saturn 2; Alaniya 4 Spartak 3; Sokol 0 Torpedo-ZIL 0; Dinamo 0 Zenit 2.
Apr 29: CSKA 2 Rotor 0.
May 3: Torpedo-ZIL 0 Dinamo 2.
May 4: Shinnik 4 Kryliya Sovetov 2; Rostselmash 2 Lokomotiv M 3; Anzhi 2 CSKA 1; Rotor 1 Torpedo M 0; Spartak 0 Uralan 2; Saturn 1 Alaniya 0; Zenit 2 Sokol 0.
May 8: Shinnik 1 Rostselmash 1; Kryliya Sovetov 1 Lokomotiv M 0; Torpedo M 2 CSKA 3; Rotor 0 Anzhi 0; Alaniya 2 Uralan 3; Saturn 1 Spartak 2; Torpedo-ZIL 1 Zenit 2; Sokol 0 Dinamo 1.
May 13: Lokomotiv M 3 Rotor 0; Shinnik 2 Torpedo M 1; Kryliya Sovetov 4 Anzhi 0; Spartak 2 Sokol 1; Alaniya 1 Dinamo 2; Saturn 1 Torpedo-ZIL 3.

RUSSIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lokomotiv M	12	9	2	1	21	6	29
CSKA	11	8	1	2	23	11	25
Kryliya Sovetov	12	6	3	3	18	13	21
Saturn	12	6	3	3	18	14	21
Spartak	12	6	2	4	20	17	20
Zenit	11	5	3	3	13	10	18
Shinnik	12	5	3	4	17	17	18
Dinamo	12	5	1	6	14	13	16
Uralan	11	3	6	2	16	14	15
Rotor	12	4	3	5	8	13	15
Torpedo M	12	3	4	5	16	15	13
Torpedo-ZIL	12	3	4	5	8	15	13
Anzhi	12	2	6	4	10	17	12
Rostselmash	11	2	3	6	12	20	9
Alaniya	12	2	2	8	13	22	8
Sokol	12	1	2	9	5	15	5

SCOTLAND

Saturday, April 6

Celtic 5 (Larsson 3, 33, 59, Hartson 19, 25)
Livingston 1 (Wilson 72) Att: 59,752

Dundee 2 (Sara 43, Milne 49)
Kilmarnock 0 Att: 5,579

Dunfermline 0
Aberdeen 0 Att: 7,339

Motherwell 1 (Elliott 70)
St Johnstone 1 (Hartley 22) Att: 3,418

Sunday, April 7

Dundee Utd 2 (Venetis 45, Lilley 55)
Hibernian 1 (O'Connor 65) Att: 5,417

Rangers 2 (Dodds 38, 71)
Hearts 0 Att: 47,492

Saturday, April 13

Aberdeen 2 (Rutkiewicz 8, Winters 79)
Hearts 3 (Tod 3, Mahe 87, McKenna 89) Att: 12,467

Celtic 5 (Hartson 18, 70, Lambert 40, Smith 58, Sylla 76)
Dunfermline 0 Att: 57,016

Dundee Utd 1 (Thompson 67)
Motherwell 0 Att: 5,108

Kilmarnock 1 (Ngonge 18)
Hibernian 0 Att: 6,236

Livingston 2 (Wilson 42, Lovell 89)
Rangers 1 (Amoruso 4) Att: 10,019

St Johnstone 0
Dundee 1 (Milne 80) Att: 2,768

Saturday, April 20

Aberdeen 3 (Mike 8, McGuire 12, Mackie 39)
Livingston 0 Att: 14,109

Dundee 0
Dundee Utd 1 (Wilkie og 41) Att: 10,087

Hearts 2 (McKenna 60, Kirk 80)
Dunfermline 0 Att: 10,108

St Johnstone 0
Kilmarnock 3 (Johnson 50, 59, Boyd 84) Att: 2,285

Sunday, April 21

Celtic 1 (Thompson 43)
Rangers 1 (Lovenkrands 2) Att: 59,384

Hibernian 4 (Townsley 27, Arpinon 45, O'Connor 81, 85)
Motherwell 0 Att: 7,701

Saturday, April 27

Dundee Utd 0
St Johnstone 0 Att: 5,190

Hibernian 2 (Townsley 15, O'Connor 76)
Dundee 2 (Caballero 33, Milne 88) Att: 8,852

Kilmarnock 1 (Johnson 68)
Motherwell 4 (Adams 21, McFadden 70, Elliott 72, Pearson 74) Att: 5,642

Rangers 2 (McCann 41, Ferguson 81)
Aberdeen 0 Att: 48,878

Sunday, April 28

Hearts 1 (Fuller 32)
Celtic 4 (Lynch 11, 41, Maloney 50, 66) Att: 12,391

Livingston 4 (Lovell 34, Xausa 61, 76, Quino 83)
Dunfermline 1 (Dair 41) Att: 8,749

Sunday, May 12

Aberdeen 0
Celtic 1 (Maloney 72) Att: 15,332

Dunfermline 1 (Crawford 86)
Rangers 1 (Moore 28) Att: 8,716

Hearts 2 (Fuller 49, pen 88)
Livingston 3 (Quino 52, Bingham 70, Wilson 85) Att: 10,223

Kilmarnock 2 (Mitchell 43, Innes 47)
Dundee Utd 2 (Thompson 63, Easton 83) Att: 6,142

Motherwell 2 (Lehmann 14, Elliott 43)
Dundee 1 (Caballero pen 65) Att: 6,574

St Johnstone 0
Hibernian 1 (Townsley 42) Att: 3,372

SCOTLAND: CHAMP'SHIP POOL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	38	33	4	1	94	18	103
Rangers	38	25	10	3	82	27	85
Livingston	38	16	10	12	50	47	58
Aberdeen	38	16	7	15	51	49	55
Hearts	38	14	6	18	52	57	48
Dunfermline	38	12	9	17	41	64	45

SCOTLAND: RELEGATION POOL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmarnock	38	13	10	15	44	54	49
Dundee Utd	38	12	10	16	38	59	46
Dundee	38	12	8	18	41	55	44
Hibernian	38	10	11	17	51	56	41
Motherwell	38	11	7	20	49	69	40
St Johnstone	38	5	6	27	24	62	21

Division split into two halves after 33 rounds. Final five games played against teams in own pool. All points and goals carried forward

TOP GOALSCORERS
29 Henrik Larsson (Celtic)
19 John Hartson (Celtic)
18 Tore Andre Flo (Rangers)

SCOTTISH CUP – Final

May 4 - Hampden Park, Glasgow
Celtic 2 (Hartson 19, Balde 50)
Rangers 3 (Lovenkrands 21, 90, Ferguson 69)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 51,138. **Ref:** Dallas

SPAIN

Saturday, April 6

Athletic Bilbao 0
Barcelona 2 (Saviola 16, 76) Att: 28,000

Deportivo La Coruna 5 (Diego Tristan 21, 28, 34, Victor 40, Sergio 63)
Mallorca 0 Att: 22,000

Las Palmas 1 (Jorge pen 50)
Zaragoza 1 (Juanele 69) Att: 18,137

Real Madrid 3 (Etxeberria og 10, Morientes 39, Figo pen 79)
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Hernandez 87) Att: 55,000

Sunday, April 7

Alaves 2 (Llorens 26, Coloccini 68)
Villarreal 1 (Calleja 44) Att: 12,482

Betis 0
Osasuna 0 Att: 25,000

Espanyol 2 (Palencia 23, Tamudo 76)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 17,800

Malaga 2 (Litos 49, Leko 89)
Tenerife 0 Att: 18,000

Valencia 4 (Baraja 12, Kily Gonzalez 27, Angulo 55, Mista 88)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 45,000

Valladolid 1 (Fernando pen 34)
Sevilla 1 (Toedtli 12) Att: 15,000

Saturday, April 13

Mallorca 1 (Luque 45)
Valencia 1 (Baraja 62) Att: 20,000

Sunday, April 14

Barcelona 3 (Saviola 14, 89, Rochemback 66)
Alaves 2 (Magno 70, Ivan Alonso 90) Att: 55,000

Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Makaay 2, 33, Diego Tristan 7)
Espanyol 1 (Rotchen 69) Att: 32,000

Osasuna 3 (Fernando 32, Alfredo 39, Ivan Rosado 75)
Real Madrid 1 (Morientes 50) Att: 16,237

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Hernandez 45)
Valladolid 0 Att: 13,500

Real Sociedad 2 (Xabi Alonso 41, Luiz Alberto 70)
Malaga 1 (Dely Valdes 31) Att: 28,000

Sevilla 1 (Toedtli 34)
Las Palmas 1 (Orlando 53) Att: 35,000

Tenerife 2 (Bino 57, Fuertes 74)
Betis 1 (Denilson 4) Att: 20,000

Villarreal 2 (Victor 71, pen 76)
Celta Vigo 1 (Jesuli 62) Att: 22,000

Zaragoza 2 (Aragon 9, Milosevic 90)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Urzaiz 33, Larrazabal pen 75) Att: 33,000

Saturday, April 20

Celta Vigo 2 (Mostovoi 24, Gustavo Lopez 61)
Barcelona 1 (Rivaldo 89) Att: 27,000

Las Palmas 0
Rayo Vallecano 2 (Korino 88, Peragon pen 90) Att: 18,894

Real Madrid 4 (Roberto Carlos 16, Figo 43, Guti 76, 84)
Tenerife 1 (Javi Venta 39) Att: 62,512

Sunday, April 21

Alaves 2 (Rebosio og 10, Geli 47)
Zaragoza 1 (Marcos Vales 74) Att: 16,124

Athletic Bilbao 0
Sevilla 1 (Gallardo 78) Att: 35,000

Betis 3 (Joao Tomas 42, 46, Benjamin pen 59)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 30,000

Espanyol 3 (Pacheco 7, Tamudo 25, Palencia 76)
Villarreal 1 (Arruabarrena 89) Att: 18,400

Malaga 0
Mallorca 0 Att: 16,000

Valencia 1 (Duscher og 70)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 50,000

Valladolid 1 (Tote 65)
Osasuna 0 Att: 12,500

Saturday, April 27

Barcelona 4 (Luis Enrique 54, Motta 56, Kluivert 67, Saviola 71)
Villarreal 1 (Victor 16) Att: 40,000

Real Sociedad 3 (Kovacevic pen 59, Khokhlov 80, De Paula 90)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 30,000

Valencia 2 (Baraja 69, 80)
Espanyol 1 (Tamudo pen 28) Att: 54,000

Sunday, April 28

Deportivo La Coruna 2 (Naybet 39, Fran 77)
Malaga 2 (Dario Silva 28, Dely Valdes pen 82) Att: 28,000

Mallorca 1 (Luque 88)
Betis 3 (Benjamin 9, Joao Tomas 52, Amato 80) Att: 22,000

Osasuna 3 (Ivan Rosado 35, Punal 45, Contreras 81)
Las Palmas 2 (Pablo Lago 23, Tevenet pen 76) Att: 18,389

Rayo Vallecano 4 (Peragon 17, Bolic 53, Michel 62, Korino pen 79)
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Urrutia 58, Ezquerro 85) Att: 15,500

Sevilla 2 (Victor Salas 43, 56)
Alaves 0 Att: 40,000

Tenerife 1 (Marioni 75)
Valladolid 5 (Fernando Sales 12, 84, Luis Garcia 27, 73, Chema 88) Att: 19,000

Zaragoza 0
Celta Vigo 1 (Jesuli 52) Att: 34,000

Sunday, May 5

Alaves 0
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Korino 46) Att: 13,223

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Guerrero 69)
Osasuna 1 (Aloisi 90) Att: 36,000

Barcelona 2 (Kluivert 44, Xavi 74)
Espanyol 0 Att: 60,000

Betis 0
Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Diego Tristan 18, 58, Valeron 61) Att: 40,000

Celta Vigo 1 (Mostovoi 6)
Sevilla 2 (Toedtli 19, 25) Att: 28,000

Las Palmas 0
Tenerife 1 (Marioni 34) Att: 18,000

Malaga 0
Valencia 2 (Ayala 36, Fabio Aurelio 44) Att: 19,000

Real Madrid 0
Mallorca 0 Att: 60,000

Valladolid 1 (Fernando Sales 25)
Real Sociedad 3 (Aranburu 31, Idiakez 48, Kovacevic 74) Att: 13,000

Villarreal 2 (Palermo 6, Arruabarrena 23)
Zaragoza 1 (Milosevic pen 65) Att: 22,700

Friday, May 10

Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Makaay 45, Fran 74, Pandiani 90)
Real Madrid 0 Att: 34,000

Saturday, May 11

Espanyol 1 (Tamudo 54)
Malaga 2 (Litos 11, Musampa 40) Att: 8,000

Mallorca 2 (Ibagaza 51, Luque 72)
Valladolid 1 (Fernando 36) Att: 20,000

Osasuna 0
Alaves 1 (Karmona 37) Att: 17,937

Rayo Vallecano 1 (Peragon 87)
Celta Vigo 0 Att: 14,500

Real Sociedad 1 (Kovacevic 78)
Las Palmas 1 (Jorge pen 21) Att: 25,000

Sevilla 1 (Toedtli pen 32)
Villarreal 0 Att: 40,000

Tenerife 2 (Jaime 16, Fuertes pen 45)
Athletic Bilbao 3 (Urzaiz 9, 60, Guerrero 76) Att: 19,000

Valencia 2 (Baraja 43, Vicente 90)
Betis 0 Att: 53,000

Zaragoza 1 (Aragon 8)
Barcelona 1 (Saviola 43) Att: 20,000

SPAIN – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valencia	38	21	12	5	51	27	75
Dep La Coruna	38	20	8	10	65	41	68
Real Madrid	38	19	9	10	69	44	66
Barcelona	38	18	10	10	65	37	64
Celta Vigo	38	16	12	10	64	46	60
Betis	38	15	14	9	42	34	59
Alaves	38	17	3	18	41	44	54
Sevilla	38	14	11	13	51	40	53
Athletic Bilbao	38	14	11	13	54	66	53
Malaga	38	13	14	11	44	44	53
Rayo Vallecano	38	13	10	15	46	52	49
Valladolid	38	13	9	16	45	58	48
Real Sociedad	38	13	8	17	48	54	47
Espanyol	38	13	8	17	47	56	47
Villarreal	38	11	10	17	46	55	43
Mallorca	38	11	10	17	40	52	43
Osasuna	38	10	12	16	36	49	42
Las Palmas	38	9	13	16	40	50	40
Tenerife	38	10	8	20	32	58	38
Zaragoza	38	9	10	19	35	54	37

TOP GOALSCORERS
21 Diego Tristan (Deportivo La Coruna)
18 Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona)
18 Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid)

SWEDEN

Apr 6: Landskrona 6 Helsingborgs 2.
Apr 7: AIK 0 Elfsborg 2; Halmstads 0 Sundsvall 1; Kalmar 1 Norrkoping 0.
Apr 8: Hammarby 2 Orgryte 3; IFK Gothenburg 1 Orebro 1; Malmo 1 Djurgardens 2.
Apr 13: Djurgardens 3 AIK 4; Norrkoping 0 Malmo 3; Orebro 1 Landskrona 3; Orgryte 2 Kalmar 0.
Apr 14: Elfsborg 1 Halmstads 1; Sundsvall 1 IFK Gothenburg 2; Helsingborgs 4 Hammarby 2.
Apr 21: AIK 1 Norrkoping 3; Landskrona 2 Sundsvall 2; Malmo 0 Orgryte 1.
Apr 22: Halmstads 1 Djurgardens 1; IFK Gothenburg 1 Elfsborg 2; Orebro 1 Helsingborgs 0.
Apr 23: Kalmar 1 Hammarby 1.
Apr 27: Djurgardens 1 IFK Gothenburg 0.
Apr 28: Sundsvall 1 Orebro 1; Helsingborgs 0 Kalmar 0; Norrkoping 0 Halmstads 0.
Apr 29: Hammarby 3 Malmo 1; Elfsborg 0 Landskrona 3; Orgryte 2 AIK 2.
May 1: Sundsvall 0 Helsingborgs 1; IFK Gothenburg 1 Norrkoping 0.
May 2: Halmstads 1 Orgryte 1; Landskrona 1 Djurgardens 1; Orebro 2 Elfsborg 0; AIK 2 Hammarby 2.
May 3: Malmo 4 Kalmar 0.
May 5: Djurgardens 3 Orebro 0; Elfsborg 0 Sundsvall 0.
May 6: Hammarby 2 Halmstads 2; Norrkoping 1 Landskrona 1; Kalmar 0 AIK 0.
May 7: Helsingborgs 2 Malmo 3.
May 8: Orgryte 2 IFK Gothenburg 1.

May 12: Sundsvall 2 Djurgardens 1; Halmstads 1 Kalmar 0; Landskrona 3 Orgryte 1.
May 13: AIK 1 Malmo 2; Elfsborg 0 Helsingborgs 1; Orebro 1 Norrkoping 0.
May 14: IFK Gothenburg 3 Hammarby 1.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Landskrona	7	4	3	0	19	8	15
Orgryte	7	4	2	1	12	9	14
Malmo	7	4	0	3	14	9	12
Djurgardens	7	3	2	2	12	9	11
Orebro	7	3	2	2	7	8	11
IFK Gothenburg	7	3	1	3	9	8	10
Helsingborgs	7	3	1	3	10	12	10
Sundsvall	7	2	3	2	7	7	9
Halmstads	7	1	5	1	6	6	8
Elfsborg	7	2	2	3	5	8	8
Hammarby	7	1	3	3	13	16	6
AIK	7	1	3	3	10	14	6
Kalmar	7	1	3	3	2	8	6
Norrkoping	7	1	2	4	4	8	5

SWITZERLAND

CHAMPIONSHIP POOL

Apr 4: St Gallen 1 Basle 3.
Apr 6: Sion 0 Grasshopper 2.
Apr 7: St Gallen 3 Young Boys 2; Basle 3 Servette 2; Zurich 0 Lugano 2.
Apr 13: Lugano 1 St Gallen 0; Servette 4 Sion 1.
Apr 14: Basle 4 Grasshopper 1; Zurich 2 Young Boys 0.
Apr 19: Grasshopper 2 Servette 2.
Apr 20: St Gallen 0 Zurich 1; Young Boys 2 Lugano 2; Sion 0 Basle 3.
Apr 24: St Gallen 1 Servette 3; Young Boys 0 Basle 3.
Apr 25: Lugano 2 Sion 0; Zurich 1 Grasshopper 1.
Apr 27: Basle 1 St Gallen 2; Servette 0 Young Boys 0.
Apr 28: Grasshopper 2 Lugano 1; Sion 1 Zurich 1.
May 4: Lugano 1 Servette 3; St Gallen 2 Sion 1; Young Boys 1 Grasshopper 4; Zurich 3 Basle 1.
May 8: Basle 4 Lugano 3; Grasshopper 3 St Gallen 3; Sion 3 Young Boys 1; Servette 0 Zurich 1.

SWITZERLAND: CHAMP POOL – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Basle	14	11	0	3	36	16	55 [22]
Grasshopper	14	7	5	2	28	17	45 [19]
Lugano	14	7	2	5	23	19	42 [19]
Servette	14	6	3	5	25	23	38 [17]
Zurich	14	6	2	6	14	17	35 [15]
St Gallen	14	4	4	6	18	20	34 [18]
Young Boys	14	4	3	7	18	25	31 [16]
Sion	14	1	1	12	10	35	21 [17]

Teams carried forward half their points (figure in brackets) from regular season

TURKEY

Apr 3: Trabzonspor 0 Galatasaray 2.
Apr 5: Fenerbahce 3 Goztepe 0.
Apr 6: Denizlispor 2 Diyarbakirspor 1; Rizespor 3 Bursaspor 1; Genclerbirligi 1 Gaziantepspor 1.
Apr 7: Malatyaspor 0 Besiktas 1; Kocaelispor 4 Ankaragucu 4; Yozgatspor 1 Istanbulspor 1; Samsunspor 0 Galatasaray 1; Antalyaspor 4 Trabzonspor 2.
Apr 12: Trabzonspor 0 Malatyaspor 0.
Apr 13: Goztepe 1 Genclerbirligi 1; Ankaragucu 1 Yozgatspor 1; Istanbulspor 0 Galatasaray 2; Samsunspor 3 Denizlispor 4.
Apr 14: Gaziantepspor 3 Kocaelispor 5; Bursaspor 0 Antalyaspor 1; Diyarbakirspor 1 Rizespor 0; Besiktas 0 Fenerbahce 2.
Apr 20: Genclerbirligi 1 Besiktas 1.
Apr 21: Denizlispor 1 Istanbulspor 1; Malatyaspor 2 Bursaspor 1; Gaziantepspor 4 Goztepe 0; Samsunspor 1 Rizespor 0; Kocaelispor 4 Yozgatspor 3; Antalyaspor 0 Diyarbakirspor 0; Galatasaray 2 Ankaragucu 0; Fenerbahce 3 Trabzonspor 0.
Apr 27: Istanbulspor 3 Rizespor 1; Yozgatspor 1 Gaziantepspor 2; Besiktas 1 Goztepe 2; Trabzonspor 0 Genclerbirligi 0; Diyarbakirspor 0 Malatyaspor 0; Samsunspor 2 Antalyaspor 0; Ankaragucu 1 Denizlispor 1.
Apr 28: Bursaspor 0 Fenerbahce 1; Kocaelispor 0 Galatasaray 2.
May 3: Goztepe 4 Trabzonspor 2.
May 4: Gaziantepspor 1 Besiktas 0; Samsunspor 1 Malatyaspor 1; Denizlispor 4 Kocaelispor 0; Rizespor 3 Ankaragucu 2; Antalyaspor 2 Istanbulspor 0; Fenerbahce 3 Diyarbakirspor 1; Genclerbirligi 3 Bursaspor 2; Galatasaray 5 Yozgatspor 0.

TURKEY – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	34	24	6	4	75	31	78
Fenerbahce	34	24	3	7	70	31	75
Besiktas	34	18	8	8	69	39	62
Ankaragucu	34	15	8	11	72	58	53
Denizlispor	34	12	12	10	65	52	48
Gaziantepspor	34	13	9	12	57	52	48
Goztepe	34	12	9	13	38	56	45
Genclerbirligi	34	11	12	11	47	51	45
Istanbulspor	34	12	8	14	33	38	44
Bursaspor	34	13	5	16	48	60	44
Kocaelispor	34	12	7	15	45	60	43
Diyarbakirspor	34	10	10	14	41	50	40
Malatyaspor	34	11	7	16	34	50	40
Trabzonspor	34	11	7	16	49	60	40
Samsunspor	34	10	8	16	32	43	38
Rizespor	34	9	10	15	43	51	37
Antalyaspor	34	9	10	15	46	61	37
Yozgatspor	34	6	9	19	46	67	27

UKRAINE

Apr 7: Vorskla 1 Poligraf'nika 1; Kryvbas 1 Zakarpattya 0; Metalist 2 Metalurh M 2; Metalurh Z 0 Tavriya 2.
Apr 8: Karpaty 0 Dynamo 2; Metalurh D 0 Shakhtar 1; Arsenal 0 Dnipro 1.
Apr 13: Dynamo 2 Metalurh D 0; Poligraftekhnika 0 Tavriya 1; Metalurh M 0 Metalurh Z 0; Zakarpattya 1 Karpaty 0; Vorskla 2 Kryvbas 2; Dnipro 0 Metalist 1; Shakhtar 2 Arsenal 0.
Apr 21: Arsenal 0 Dynamo 1; Kryvbas 3 Poligraftekhnika 1; Karpaty 0 Vorskla 1; Metalurh D 1 Zakarpattya 1; Metalist 1 Shakhtar 1; Metalurh Z 2 Dnipro 1; Tavriya 3 Metalurh M 1.
Apr 27: Dynamo 6 Metalist 0; Shakhtar 0 Metalurh Z 0; Dnipro 2 Tavriya 1; Poligraftekhnika 2 Metalurh M 2; Zakarpattya 2 Arsenal 1; Vorskla 2 Metalurh D 1; Kryvbas 0 Karpaty 0.
May 7: Metalurh Z 1 Dynamo 3; Karpaty 0 Poligraftekhnika 0; Metalurh D 3 Kryvbas 2; Metalist 4 Zakarpattya 0; Tavriya 0 Shakhtar 1; Metalurh M 0 Dnipro 0; Arsenal 0 Vorskla 0.
May 12: Dynamo 0 Tavriya 0; Poligraftekhnika 2 Dnipro 6; Shakhtar 2 Metalurh M 0; Zakarpattya 0 Metalurh Z 1; Vorskla 1 Metalist 1; Kryvbas 1 Arsenal 0; Karpaty 0 Metalurh D 1.
May 18: Arsenal 0 Karpaty 0; Metalist 0 Kryvbas 0; Metalurh Z 1 Vorskla 0; Tavriya 1 Zakarpattya 1.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo	22	17	5	0	52	7	56
Shakhtar	22	16	6	0	43	9	54
Metalurh D	22	10	5	7	33	23	35
Metalurh Z	23	10	5	8	20	20	35
Dnipro	22	9	7	6	26	18	34
Metalist	23	9	6	8	29	34	33
Karpaty	23	7	7	9	18	25	28
Kryvbas	23	6	9	8	25	34	27
Tavriya	23	7	5	11	24	32	26
Poligraftekhnika	22	5	8	9	20	31	23
Metalurh M	22	5	7	10	24	32	22
Zakarpattya	23	5	5	13	22	45	20
Arsenal	23	5	4	14	14	25	19
Vorskla	23	4	7	12	15	30	19

YUGOSLAVIA

Apr 5: Zvezdara 0 Sartid 3.
Apr 6: Zemun 2 Mladost A 2; Hajduk K 1 Rudar P 1; Mladost L 2 Zeta 3; Partizan 2 Zeleznik 0; Radnicki K 1 Cukaricki 2; Sutjeska 0 Red Star 0; Obilic 0 Rad 0; OFK 0 Vojvodina 0.
Apr 10: Rad 5 Zvezdara 1.
Apr 12: Red Star 3 Radnicki K 0.
Apr 14: Mladost A 0 OFK 0; Vojvodina 1 Zvezdara 1; Sartid 2 Obilic 0; Rad 1 Sutjeska 0; Cukaricki 0 Partizan 1; Zeleznik 1 Mladost L 0; Zeta 4 Hajduk K 1; Rudar P 3 Zemun 2.
Apr 19: Sutjeska 3 Sartid 2; Zvezdara 0 OFK 2.
Apr 20: Rudar P 2 Mladost A 1; Zemun 2 Zeta 0; Hajduk K 1 Zeleznik 0; Mladost L 1 Cukaricki 0; Radnicki K 0 Rad 2; Obilic 1 Vojvodina 0.
Apr 21: Partizan 0 Red Star 3.
Apr 24: Mladost A 4 Zvezdara 1; Vojvodina 2 Sutjeska 0; Sartid 1 Radnicki K 0; Rad 2 Partizan 3; Red Star 1 Mladost L 0; Cukaricki 1 Hajduk K 0; Zeleznik 1 Zemun 1; Zeta 0 Rudar P 1.
Apr 27: Zeta 3 Mladost A 0; Rudar P 3 Zeleznik 0; Zemun 3 Cukaricki 0; Hajduk K 1 Red Star 1; Mladost L 1 Rad 4; Partizan 3 Sartid 1; Radnicki K 0 Vojvodina 2; Sutjeska 1 OFK 0; Obilic 1 Zvezdara 0.
May 3: Zvezdara 0 Sutjeska 1.
May 4: Mladost A 1 Obilic 1; Rad 2 Hajduk K 1; OFK 2 Radnicki K 0; Zeleznik 3 Zeta 1; Sartid 1 Mladost L 1; Cukaricki 1 Rudar P 0; Vojvodina 0 Partizan 2; Red Star 1 Zemun 1.
May 10: Zemun 2 Rad 1.
May 11: Rudar 1 Red Star 0; Hadjuk K 0 Sartid 2; Zeleznik 2 Mladost A 0; Radnicki K 1 Zvezdara 3.
May 12: Sutjeska 0 Obilic 0; Zeta 2 Cukaricki 1; Mladost L 2 Vojvodina 1; Partizan 3 OFK 3.
May 14: Zvezdara 0 Zemun 5.
May 15: OFK 2 Obilic 1.
May 17: Zvezdara 1 Rudar P 2.

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Partizan	31	22	6	3	72	31	72
Red Star	31	17	11	3	48	21	62
Sartid	31	15	7	9	43	33	52
Obilic	31	14	8	9	45	36	50
Zeta	31	13	6	12	44	49	45
Rudar P	31	12	8	11	33	28	44
OFK	31	11	10	10	40	31	43
Rad	31	12	7	12	42	38	43
Zeleznik	31	12	7	12	35	37	43
Zemun	31	11	8	12	44	39	41
Vojvodina	31	9	14	8	29	24	41
Cukaricki	31	11	7	13	31	35	40
Hajduk K	31	11	7	13	34	39	40
Sutjeska	31	12	4	15	28	37	40
Mladost L	31	11	6	14	33	35	39
Zvezdara	31	7	7	17	33	53	28
Radnicki K	31	6	5	20	23	59	23
Mladost A	31	3	12	16	25	57	21

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

Group 1

Apr 10 - Sao Caetano do Sul
Sao Caetano (Bra) 0
Cerro Porteno (Par) 1 (Achucarro 74)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Sanchez (Arg)

Apr 10 - Lima
Alianza Lima (Per) 1 (Aguirre 75)
Cobreloa (Chl) 2 (Dinamarca 70, Canobbio 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Russi (Col)

GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sao Caetano	6	4	0	2	14	4	12
Cobreloa	6	4	0	2	12	8	12
Cerro Porteno	6	3	1	2	7	6	10
Alianza Lima	6	0	1	5	1	16	1

Group 2

Apr 9 - Porto Alegre
Gremio (Bra) 1 (Anderson 79)
12 de Octubre (Par) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gimenez (Arg)

Apr 9 - Cusco
Cienciano (Per) 2 (Hernandez 14, Moran 17)
Oriente Petrolero (Bol) 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Moreno (Ecu)
Sent off: Melgar 35min, Suarez 75min (both Oriente); Hernandez (Cienciano) 38min

GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gremio	6	4	0	2	11	7	12
Cienciano	6	3	0	3	8	7	9
12 de Octubre	6	3	0	3	5	7	9
Oriente Petrolero	6	2	0	4	10	13	6

Group 3

Apr 9 - Buenos Aires
San Lorenzo (Arg) 0
Penarol (Uru) 2 (Cedres 8, Gaglianone 21)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Simon (Bra)

Apr 9 - Quito
El Nacional (Ecu) 2 (Herrera 63, Anangono 71)
Real Potosi (Bol) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Solorzano (Ven)

GROUP 3 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	6	4	0	2	11	7	12
El Nacional	6	4	0	2	10	6	12
San Lorenzo	6	2	0	4	6	8	6
Real Potosi	6	2	0	4	10	16	6

Group 4

GROUP 4 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America (Col)	6	3	2	1	10	3	11
Olmedo (Ecu)	6	3	0	3	7	7	9
Bolivar (Bol)	6	2	2	2	11	13	8
At P'naense (Bra)	6	1	2	3	10	15	5

Group 5

Apr 11 - Lima
Sporting Cristal (Per) 0
Atletico Morelia (Mex) 1 (Fernandes 1)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Sent off: Maestri (Sporting) 90min; Alarcon (Morelia) 90min

Apr 11 - Buenos Aires
Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 0
Nacional (Uru) 1 (Vanzini 15)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Lecca (Per)
Sent off: Falcon (Velez) 67min

GROUP 5 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Morelia	6	4	2	0	15	7	14
Nacional	6	3	2	1	13	12	11
Velez Sarsfield	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
Sporting Cristal	6	0	0	6	5	14	0

Group 6

Apr 10 - Montevideo
Montevideo Wanderers (Uru) 0
Boca Juniors (Arg) 2 (Gaitan 69, Gimenez 81)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gonzalez (Par)
Sent off: Herrera (Wanderers) 72min; Carreno (Boca) 72min

Apr 10 - Vina del Mar
Santiago Wanderers (Chl) 2 (Fernandez 49, Neveu 84)
Emelec (Ecu) 1 (P Caicedo 56)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Troxler (Par)

GROUP 6 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	6	4	1	1	7	2	13
Mont Wanderers	6	3	1	2	8	7	10
Sant Wanderers	6	2	3	1	6	6	9
Emelec	6	0	1	5	4	10	1

Group 7

Apr 11 - Cordoba
Talleres Cordoba (Arg) 1 (Astudillo 87)
River Plate (Arg) 1 (Escudero 52)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Madorran (Arg)

Apr 11 - Mexico City
America (Mex) 3 (Paez 17, Lipatin 51, Serrato 70)
Tulua (Col) 2 (O Diaz 20, Torres 82)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Chandia (Chl)

GROUP 7 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
America (Mex)	6	5	1	0	9	2	16
River Plate	6	2	3	1	8	4	9
Talleres Cordoba	6	1	2	3	5	9	5
Tulua	6	1	0	5	9	16	3

Group 8

Apr 10 - Asuncion
Olimpia (Par) 2 (Cordoba 29, Baez 84)
Flamengo (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)

Apr 10 - Santiago
Universidad Catolica (Chl) 3 (Perez 29, Gabrich 58, Norambuena 77)
Once Caldas (Col) 1 (Galvan 46)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ortube (Bol)
Sent off: J Preciado 58min, Viafara 81min (both Once Caldas)

GROUP 8 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	6	3	2	1	8	5	11
U Catolica	6	3	1	2	9	8	10
Once Caldas	6	3	0	3	10	11	9
Flamengo	6	1	1	4	6	9	4

Top two from each group qualified for second round

2nd rnd, 1st legs

April 23

Cienciano 0
America (Mex) 1 (Navia 69)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Carpio (Ecu)

***Cobreloa 1** (Dinamarca 10)
Olimpia 1 (Zelaya 12)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Sanchez (Arg)
**Game abandoned at half-time after objects were thrown from the stands; awarded 2-0 to Olimpia*

Nacional 1 (Vanzini 87)
America (Col) 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Pereira (Bra)

April 24

Montevideo Wanderers 2 (Eguren 28, 32)
Penarol 2 (Bueno 7, 59)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Vasquez (Uru)

Olmedo 0
Atletico Morelia 5 (Noriega 41, 48, 85, Iniguez 70, 83)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Cervantes (Col)

River Plate 1 (Coudet 47)
Gremio 2 (Tinga 57, Gilberto 90)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)

April 25

El Nacional 0
Boca Juniors 0
Ref: Ruiz (Col)

Universidad Catolica 1 (Campos 28)
Sao Caetano 1 (Anailson 9)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Gimenez (Arg)

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

April 30

Atletico Morelia 3 (Fernandes 79, 85, Noriega 83)
Olmedo 2 (Iachetti 42, 52)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Vasquez (Uru)
Sent off: Moreiras 81min, Iachetti 84min, Prado 87min (all Olmedo); Munoz (Morelia) 87min
Atletico Morelia 8-2 on agg

Penarol 2 (Bueno 30, De Souza 72)
Montevideo Wanderers 2 (Herrera 55, Larrea 85)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Cabrera (Uru)
Sent off: Rodriguez (Penarol) 23min
Agg 4-4. Penarol 3-0 on pens

May 1

America (Mex) 4 (Navia 5, 89, Castillo 24, Patino 71)
Cienciano 1 (Carty 46)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Gallesio (Uru)
America 5-1 on agg

Boca Juniors 2 (Calvo 27, Delgado 35)
El Nacional 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Chandia (Chl)
Boca 2-0 on agg

Sao Caetano 1 (Brandao 44)
Universidad Catolica 1 (Norambuena 51)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Torres (Par)
Sent off: Marcos Aurelio (Sao Caetano) 84min
Agg 2-2. Sao Caetano 4-2 on pens

May 2

America (Col) 0
Nacional 0
Ref: Hidalgo (Per)
Nacional 1-0 on agg

Gremio 4 (Rodrigo Mendes 40, Luizao 44, Zinho 69, Luis Mario 76)
River Plate 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Sent off: Ayala 30min, Husain 67min (both River)
Gremio 6-1 on agg

Olimpia 2 (Benitez 24, Baez 45)
Cobreloa 1 (Canobbio 48)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Oliveira (Bra)
Sent off: Mele (Cobreloa) 7min; Benitez (Olimpia) 58min
Olimpia 4-1 on agg

Quarter-finals, 1st legs

May 7

Atletico Morelia 1 (C A Morales 2)
America (Mex) 2 (Navia 74, 75)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Brizio (Mex)
Sent off: H Morales 80min, Fernandes 88min (both Morelia); Navia 80min, Mendoza 88min (both America)

May 8

Boca Juniors 1 (Tevez 18)
Olimpia 1 (Traverso og 67)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Hidalgo (Per)

Gremio 1 (Rodrigo Fabbri 77)
Nacional 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Chandia (Chl)

May 9

Penarol 1 (Lima 25)
Sao Caetano 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Elizondo (Arg)

Quarter-finals, 2nd legs

May 14

Sao Caetano 2 (Jean Carlos 27, Somalia 55)
Penarol 1 (Jimenez 1)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Agg 2-2. Sao Caetano 3-1 on pens

May 15

Nacional 1 (R Morales pen 54)
Gremio 1 (Claudiomiro 70)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Amarilla (Par)
Sent off: Luis Mario (Gremio) 74min
Gremio 2-1 on agg

May 16

America (Mex) 2 (Patino 75, Castro 84)
Atletico Morelia 1 (Franco 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ramos (Mex)
Sent off: Rojas (America) 6min
America 4-2 on agg

Olimpia 1 (Isasi 67)
Boca Juniors 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Pereira (Bra)
Olimpia 2-1 on agg

ARGENTINA

CLOSING CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, April 5

Banfield 0
Huracan 0

Saturday, April 6

Independiente 1 (Vuoso 89)
Rosario Central 4 (Figueroa 6, 19, Cappelletti 81, Delgado 85)

Velez Sarsfield 2 (Nanni 5, Dudar 42)
Talleres Cordoba 0

Sunday, April 7

Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Obolo 45)
Lanus 0

Boca Jnrs 3 (Delgado 7, Bracamonte 34, Riquelme 60)
Union Santa Fe 0

Colon Santa Fe 1 (Carignano 25)
Chacarita Juniors 1 (Bustos Montoya 88)

Gimnasia LP 2 (Enria 55, San Esteban 90)
Racing Club 3 (Milito 13, Estevez pen 37, Chatruc 50)

Newell's Old Boys 2 (Sacripanti 34, Vella 90)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Garfagnoli 36)

Nueva Chicago 1 (Martens 31)
Estudiantes 0

San Lorenzo 0
River Plate 0

Friday, April 12

Lanus 2 (Mannara 16, Belloso 90)
San Lorenzo 2 (Erviti 18, Pusineri 33)

Saturday, April 13

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Liendo 73)
Belgrano Cordoba 2 (Zarate 35, Bordicio 80)

Huracan 1 (Montenegro pen 90)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Talleres Cordoba 0
Independiente 0

Union Santa Fe 0
Banfield 2 (Sanchez pen 73, Lujambio 90)

Sunday, April 14

Chacarita Juniors 0
Gimnasia LP 1 (Sava 26)

Estudiantes 0
Boca Juniors 1 (Battaglia 79)

Racing Club 1 (Bastia 1)
Nueva Chicago 0

River Plate 4 (Cavenaghi 12, 47, Ortega 51, 89)
Colon Santa Fe 2 (Delgado 25, Castagno Suarez 69)

Rosario Central 0
Newell's Old Boys 0

Tuesday, April 16

***Independiente 0**
Huracan 4 (Montenegro 3, 45, Gonzalez 15, Moner 35)
**Abandoned after 60mins because of hooliganism*

Wednesday, April 17

Banfield 2 (Jimenez 40, Lezcano 50)
Estudiantes 2 (Quatrocchi 18, Farias 52)

Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Arce 87)
Rosario Central 1 (Papa 4)

Boca Juniors 0
Nueva Chicago 0

Chacarita Juniors 1 (Moreno 47)
Racing Club 1 (Milito 90)

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Graf 52, 73)
Lanus 1 (Belloso 18)

***Gimnasia LP 0**
River Plate 1 (Cavenaghi 85)
**Abandoned after 89mins because of hooliganism*

Newell's Old Boys 3 (Domizi 24, Rodriguez 76, 87)
Talleres Cordoba 0

Velez Sarsfield 1 (Nanni 63)
Union Santa Fe 1 (Israelevich 74)

Friday, April 19

Estudiantes 3 (Piersimone 66, Pavone 70, Farias 82)
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Nanni 9, Husain 49)

Saturday, April 20

Huracan 0
Newell's Old Boys 2 (Sacripanti 40, Gigena 50)

Lanus 0
Gimnasia LP 2 (Sava 29, pen 57)

Rosario Central 0
San Lorenzo 0

Sunday, April 21

Argentinos Juniors 0
Colon Santa Fe 0

Nueva Chicago 2 (Gomez pen 31, 49)
Banfield 0

***Racing Club 2** (Milito 36, 63)
Boca Juniors 1 (Gonzalez 40)
**Abandoned after 88mins because of hooliganism*

River Plate 2 (Husain 53, Coudet 72)
Chacarita Juniors 2 (Rosada 17, 86)

Talleres Cordoba 3 (Astudillo 34, Escobar 51, 82)
Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Zarate 81)

Union Santa Fe 0
Independiente 0

Wednesday, April 24

***San Lorenzo 1** (Franco 73)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Cordone pen 42)
**Continuation of match abandoned after 48 minutes on April 16 because of rain*

Friday, April 26

San Lorenzo 3 (Pusineri 18, Capria 85, Saja pen 90)
Talleres Cordoba 1 (Escobar 87)

Saturday, April 27

Belgrano Cordoba 0
Huracan 1 (Villa 53)

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Carignano 57, Graf 81)
Rosario Central 2 (Figueroa 69, Sanchez 84)

Independiente 0
Estudiantes 0

Sunday, April 28

Banfield 1 (Jimenez 30)
Boca Juniors 0

Chacarita Juniors 1 (Pinola 73)
Lanus 1 (Belloso 63)

Gimnasia LP 3 (Sava 21, Messera 60, 64)
Argentinos Juniors 0

Newell's Old Boys 0
Union Santa Fe 2 (Fernandez 44, Capria 66)

River Plate 1 (Cuevas 90)
Racing Club 0

Velez Sarsfield 2 (Nanni 57, Husain 80)
Nueva Chicago 1 (Kmet 45)

Friday, May 3

Racing Club 0
Banfield 0

Saturday, May 4

Argentinos Juniors 3 (Mantilla 48, Kuhl 83, Cordone 89)
Chacarita Juniors 2 (Bustos Montoya 59, Torales 72)

Nueva Chicago 1 (Gomez pen 12)
Independiente 1 (Silvera 90)

Union Santa Fe 1 (Perezlindo 83)
Belgrano Cordoba 0

Sunday, May 5

Boca Juniors 2 (Bracamonte 26, Gimenez 85)
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Gracian 55)

Estudiantes 3 (Maggiolo 25, 36, Pompei 66)
Newell's Old Boys 3 (Martinez 5, Crosa 75, Ponzio 89)

Huracan 1 (Villa 34)
San Lorenzo 1 (Rodriguez 35)

Lanus 1 (Romero 45)
River Plate 0

Rosario Central 2 (Figueroa 21, 32)
Gimnasia LP 0

Talleres Cordoba 0
Colon Santa Fe 3 (Carignano 5, Graf 33, 54)

Saturday, May 11

Colon Santa Fe 2 (Carignano 10, Graf 33)
Huracan 4 (Villa 47, 77, Montenegro 58, Gonzalez 63)

Lanus 2 (Belloso 33, Marino 87)
Racing Club 0

San Lorenzo 0
Union Santa Fe 4 (Capria og 7, Weisheim 46, Frutos 83, 87)

Velez Sarsfield 3 (Nanni 12, 25, Husain 14)
Banfield 0

Sunday, May 12

Belgrano Cordoba 0
Estudiantes 0

Chacarita Juniors 2 (Bustos Montoya 9, Pedernera 81)
Rosario Central 0

Gimnasia LP 1 (Choy 55)
Talleres Cordoba 0

Independiente 1 (Insua 41)
Boca Juniors 1 (Barros Schelotto pen 83)

Newell's Old Boys 2 (Ponzio 5, Saucedo 82)
Nueva Chicago 0

River Plate 5 (Cambiasso 22, Dominguez 34, Cavenaghi 38, 45, 60)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Pisculichi 13)

Friday, May 17

Huracan 2 (Garipe 3, Montenegro 52)
Gimnasia LP 2 (Enria 5, Turienzo 9)

Saturday, May 18

Estudiantes 4 (Carrusca 20, Maggiolo 53, 66, Osorio 54)
San Lorenzo 1 (Piombo 80)

Racing Club 0
Velez Sarsfield 1 (Dudar 74)

Sunday, May 19

Argentinos Juniors 0
Lanus 2 (Coria 33, Alvarez pen 88)

Banfield 2 (Sanchez 66, Lujambio 75)
Independiente 1 (Rivas 49)

Boca Juniors 1 (Tevez 39)
Newell's Old Boys 0

Nueva Chicago 2 (Herbella 54, 73)
Belgrano Cordoba 1 (Zarate 44)

Rosario Central 2 (Arias 41, Figueroa 43)
River Plate 3 (Dominguez 1, Zapata 32, Cavenaghi pen 70)

Talleres Cordoba 2 (Maidana pen 58, Astudillo 74)
Chacarita Juniors 2 (Lillo og 27, Bustos Montoya 67)

Union Santa Fe 0
Colon Santa Fe 0

ARGENTINA: CLOSING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
River Plate	19	13	4	2	39	13	43
Gimnasia LP	19	11	4	4	33	23	37
Boca Juniors	19	10	5	4	25	17	35
Huracan	19	9	3	7	27	24	30
Banfield	19	8	6	5	21	19	30
Racing Club	19	8	5	6	19	17	29
Newell's OB	19	8	4	7	26	25	28
Estudiantes	19	7	6	6	34	27	27
Velez Sarsfield	19	7	5	7	27	20	26
Lanus	19	6	8	5	20	18	26
San Lorenzo	19	6	8	5	24	23	26
Colon Santa Fe	19	6	6	7	24	23	24
Nueva Chicago	19	6	6	7	16	21	24
Chacarita Jnrs	19	4	9	6	23	24	21
Union Santa Fe	19	5	6	8	20	27	21
Rosario Central	19	5	5	9	20	26	20
Argentinos Jnrs	19	5	5	9	20	32	20
Belgrano Cordoba	19	5	3	11	16	24	18
Talleres Cordoba	19	5	2	12	14	31	17
Independiente	19	3	6	10	14	28	15

TOP GOALSCORERS
15 Fernando Cavenaghi (River Plate)
12 Facundo Sava (Gimnasia LP)

BOLIVIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

BOLIVIA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	12	9	1	2	37	12	28
The Strongest	12	7	2	3	22	15	23
Oriente	12	7	1	4	37	22	22
J Wilstermann	13	6	3	4	29	19	21
Union Central	13	5	4	4	21	19	19
Blooming	12	6	1	5	22	24	19
Iberoamericana	13	6	1	6	18	21	19
San Jose	13	4	3	6	27	26	15
Real Potosi	13	4	3	6	25	32	15
Independiente	13	4	2	7	17	24	14
Guabira	13	4	2	7	14	36	14
Mariscal Braun	13	2	1	10	10	29	7

Table as at May 20

CHILE

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sant Wanderers	13	7	2	4	21	17	23
Huachipato	13	4	3	6	21	25	15
Sant Morning	13	3	3	7	17	21	12
Cobresal	13	3	2	8	19	34	11

GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U Catolica	13	7	4	2	33	17	25
Palestino	13	5	8	0	24	15	23
Audax Italiano	13	6	2	5	14	16	20
Dep Temuco	13	5	4	4	26	25	19

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	13	6	4	3	18	12	22
U de Chile	13	6	3	4	23	19	21
Cobreloa	13	4	3	6	21	24	15
Dep Concepcion	13	2	2	9	14	26	8

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	13	7	3	3	24	14	24
Coquimbo Unido	13	5	3	5	15	19	18
San Felipe	13	5	2	6	19	17	17
Union Espanola	13	4	2	7	15	23	14

Tables as at May 12

COLOMBIA

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

COLOMBIA – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dep Cali	22	11	6	5	44	24	39
Indep Santa Fe	22	10	8	4	26	13	38
At Nacional	22	10	8	4	24	18	38
Envigado	22	10	6	6	21	18	36
Dep Pasto	22	9	7	6	29	27	34
Bucaramanga	22	9	6	7	24	22	33
Magdalena	22	9	6	7	27	27	33
America	22	8	9	5	27	22	33
Once Caldas	22	9	5	8	36	29	32
Pereira	22	8	8	6	20	16	32
Quindio	22	7	9	6	24	30	30
At Junior	22	7	5	10	19	25	26
Millonarios	22	5	8	9	17	21	23
At Huila	22	5	7	10	21	32	22
Tulua	22	5	6	11	16	25	21
Indep Medellin	22	4	9	9	26	32	21
Real Cartagena	22	4	8	10	17	25	20
Tolima	22	3	9	10	18	30	18

Table as at May 19

ECUADOR

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 22: Dep Cuenca 1 Espoli 0.
Mar 23: El Nacional 2 Dep Quito 1; Aucas 1 LDU Quito 0; Barcelona 0 Emelec 0.
Mar 24: Olmedo 0 Macara 0.
Mar 31: Emelec 0 Macara 0; Dep Quito 2 Olmedo 2; LDU Quito 1 El Nacional 1; Espoli 0 Aucas 2; Dep Cuenca 0 Barcelona 2.
Apr 3: Macara 2 Emelec 1; Olmedo 3 Dep Quito 2; El Nacional 1 LDU Quito 0; Aucas 3 Espoli 0; Barcelona 1 Dep Cuenca 0.
Apr 6: Dep Quito 1 El Nacional 1.
Apr 7: Emelec 0 Barcelona 1; LDU Quito 4 Aucas 4; Macara 1 Olmedo 1; Espoli 0 Dep Cuenca 1.
Apr 12: Dep Cuenca 2 LDU Quito 2.
Apr 13: Olmedo 2 Emelec 1; Aucas 2 Dep Quito 1; El Nacional 1 Macara 1
Apr 14: Barcelona 1 Espoli 0.
Apr 20: Dep Quito 2 Dep Cuenca 1; Macara 1 Aucas 0; Olmedo 1 El Nacional 1.
Apr 21: LDU Quito 1 Barcelona 0; Emelec 4 Espoli 0.
Apr 22: Aucas 1 Olmedo 0.
Apr 23: El Nacional 1 Emelec 2.
Apr 24: Barcelona 4 Dep Quito 0; Espoli 3 LDU Quito 1; Dep Cuenca 2 Macara 2.
Apr 27: Olmedo 2 Dep Cuenca 3;
Apr 28: El Nacional 6 Aucas 0; Macara 0 Barcelona 1; Dep Quito 3 Espoli 2; Emelec 3 LDU Quito 1.
May 5: Dep Cuenca 1 El Nacional 0; LDU Quito 2 Dep Quito 1; Aucas 1 Emelec 0; Espoli 2 Macara 2; Barcelona 2 Olmedo 2.
May 11: El Nacional 2 Barcelona 0; Olmedo 1 Espoli 2; Macara 1 LDU Quito 1.
May 12: Aucas 3 Dep Cuenca 2; Emelec 0 Dep Quito 2.
May 19: Dep Cuenca 2 Emelec 0; Espoli 1 El Nacional 0; Dep Quito 3 Macara 1; LDU Quito 0 Olmedo 0; Barcelona 3 Aucas 1.

ECUADOR: OPENING – 1ST STAGE FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barcelona	18	10	4	4	22	13	34
Aucas	18	10	2	6	25	27	32
Emelec	18	8	2	8	31	20	26
Dep Quito	18	7	4	7	25	28	25
El Nacional	18	6	5	7	23	15	23
LDU Quito	18	5	8	5	24	23	23
Dep Cuenca	18	6	5	7	21	28	23
Macara	18	4	9	5	20	22	21
Espoli	18	6	3	9	19	29	21
Olmedo	18	3	8	7	20	25	17

PARAGUAY

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

Mar 22: Libertad 3 San Lorenzo 0; Olimpia 2 Recoleta 2.
Mar 23: 12 de Octubre 1 Cerro Porteno 0.
Mar 24: Sportivo Luqueno 1 Sol de America 0; Sport Colombia 2 Guarani 1.
Mar 27: 12 de Octubre 1 Olimpia 0.
Mar 30: Olimpia 1 Sol de America 3; Sportivo Luqueno 1 12 de Octubre 0.
Mar 31: Cerro Porteno 3 Libertad 1; Guarani 3 Recoleta 1; San Lorenzo 0 Sport Colombia 0.

PARAGUAY: OPENING – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sportivo Luqueno	9	7	1	1	15	7	22
12 de Octubre	9	6	1	2	9	4	19
Libertad	9	6	0	3	19	13	18
Cerro Porteno	9	5	0	4	17	15	15
Sport Colombia	9	4	2	3	23	13	14
Sol de America	9	4	1	4	13	13	13
Olimpia	9	3	2	4	13	15	11
Guarani	9	3	0	6	14	19	9
San Lorenzo	9	0	4	5	7	14	4
Recoleta	9	0	3	6	8	25	3

Top eight qualified for quarter-finals

Quarter-finals

1st legs
Apr 5: Guarani 2 Sportivo Luqueno 1.
Apr 6: Olimpia 3 12 de Octubre 1.
Apr 7: Sol de America 3 Libertad 3; Sport Colombia 0 Cerro Porteno 2.

2nd legs
Apr 12: Libertad 5 Sol de America 1 *Libertad 8-4 on agg.*
Apr 13: 12 de Octubre 1 Olimpia 1 *Olimpia 4-2 on agg.*
Apr 14: Sportivo Luqueno 0 Guarani 2 *Guarani 4-1 on agg*; Cerro Porteno 1 Sport Colombia 1 *Cerro Porteno 3-1 on agg.*

Semi-finals

1st legs
Apr 20: Cerro Porteno 0 Olimpia 0.
Apr 21: Guarani 1 Libertad 1.

2nd legs
Apr 27: Olimpia 0 Cerro Porteno 0 *Agg 0-0. Olimpia 5-3 on pens.*
Apr 28: Libertad 4 Guarani 1 *Libertad 5-2 on agg.*

Final, 1st leg

May 4: Cerro Porteno 0 Libertad 3.

Final, 2nd leg

May 11: Libertad 0 Cerro Porteno 1.
Libertad 3-1 on agg

PERU

OPENING CHAMPIONSHIP

PERU – OPENING

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Atletico	13	8	2	3	23	11	26
Alianza Lima	13	8	2	3	26	15	26
Sporting Cristal	13	7	4	2	26	16	25
Universitario	13	7	2	4	15	12	23
Melgar	13	4	5	4	11	17	17
Estudiantes	13	4	4	5	19	19	16
Coronel Bolognesi	13	4	4	5	15	21	16
Cienciano	12	4	3	5	19	23	15
Sport Boys	13	4	3	6	15	19	15
Coopsol Trujillo	13	3	4	6	18	19	13
Juan Aurich	13	2	4	7	14	17	10
Dep Wanka	12	3	1	8	10	22	10

Table as at May 12

URUGUAY

CLASSIFICATION STAGE

Mar 22: Nacional 3 Villa Espanola 1.
Mar 23: Progreso 2 Penarol 4; Fenix 3 Danubio 2; Plaza 0 Defensor 1.
Mar 24: Dep Maldonado 1 Juventud 0; Central Espanol 2 Cerro 1; Bella Vista P 4 River Plate 2; Wanderers 1 Bella Vista M 2; Tacuarembo 2 Racing 0.
Mar 29: Dep Maldonado 2 Fenix 2.
Mar 30: Nacional 0 Cerro 1; Wanderers 1 Racing 1.
Mar 31: Central Espanol 0 Penarol 3; Plaza 2 Progreso 0; Bella Vista P 0 Villa Espanola 2; Juventud 1 Defensor 8; Tacuarembo 0 Danubio 2; Bella Vista M 0 River Plate 2.
Apr 5: Defensor 2 Fenix 0.
Apr 6: Danubio 0 Wanderers 0; Tacuarembo 1 Penarol 3.
Apr 7: Dep Maldonado 4 Villa Espanola 1; River Plate 2 Central Espanol 3; Progreso 2 Nacional 4; Juventud 0 Plaza 2; Bella Vista P 2 Racing 1; Bella Vista M 0 Cerro 1.
Apr 12: Dep Maldonado 2 Danubio 4.
Apr 13: Racing 1 Central Espanol 3; Plaza 2 Penarol 0.
Apr 14: Bella Vista M 3 Nacional 1; Bella Vista P 1 Progreso 0; Defensor 3 Wanderers 1; Juventud 0 Villa Espanola 1; Tacuarembo 0 Cerro 0; River Plate 1 Fenix 5.
Apr 20: Fenix 1 Nacional 1; Bella Vista P 1 Penarol 2; Juventud 1 Wanderers 2.
Apr 21: Dep Maldonado 0 Bella Vista M 2; Defensor 2 Central Espanol 2; Plaza 2 Racing 0; Danubio 2 Villa Espanola 2; Progreso 1 Cerro 1; Tacuarembo 3 River Plate 1.
Apr 26: Central Espanol 2 Danubio 1.
Apr 27: Wanderers 2 Progreso 2; Penarol 2 Defensor 1.
Apr 28: Dep Maldonado 4 Racing 0; Nacional 4 River Plate 3; Plaza 0 Fenix 3; Bella Vista P 1 Tacuarembo 0; Villa Espanola 3 Bella Vista M 2; Juventud 1 Cerro 1.
May 3: Defensor 1 Bella Vista M 1.
May 4: Juventud 2 Penarol 5.
May 5: Dep Maldonado 4 River Plate 0; Tacuarembo 1 Central Espanol 1; Nacional 0 Racing 1; Plaza 5 Danubio 2; Bella Vista P 0 Cerro 2; Fenix 2 Wanderers 4; Villa Espanola 4 Progreso 2.
May 10: Central Espanol 3 Fenix 3.
May 11: Dep Maldonado 2 Penarol 2; Bella Vista P 2 Bella Vista M 1; Cerro 0 Wanderers 1; Progreso 1 Defensor 2; Tacuarembo 2 Villa Espanola 0; Juventud 2 Racing 2.
May 12: Danubio 6 Nacional 3; Plaza 0 River Plate 1.
May 17: Dep Maldonado 0 Cerro 1.
May 19: Villa Espanola 4 Central Espanol 1; Nacional 1 Penarol 1; Plaza 3 Bella Vista M 1; Bella Vista P 2 Fenix 5; Tacuarembo 0 Wanderers 1; River Plate 1 Defensor 0; Juventud 0 Danubio 3; Racing 3 Progreso 2.

GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	17	10	2	5	40	24	32
Fenix	17	9	5	3	40	26	32
Danubio	17	10	2	5	37	24	32
Villa Espanola	17	6	4	7	27	29	22
River Plate	17	6	3	8	29	34	21
Bella Vista M	17	4	4	9	23	30	16
Progreso	17	0	5	12	17	41	5

GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Penarol	17	10	6	1	41	22	36
Defensor	17	9	4	4	32	16	31
Central Espanol	17	9	4	4	28	30	31
Wanderers	17	7	4	6	24	26	25
Cerro	17	4	6	7	20	27	18
Racing	17	4	4	9	19	33	16

GROUP C – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plaza	17	10	2	5	25	16	32
Dep Maldonado	17	7	3	7	31	22	24
Tacuarembo	17	5	6	6	18	20	21
Bella Vista P	17	6	1	10	17	29	19
Juventud	17	3	3	11	19	38	12

Top two from each group, plus the four other teams with the most points (Danubio, Central Espanol, Wanderers, Villa Espanola) qualify for opening and closing championships

CENTRAL & NORTH AMERICA

MEXICO

SUMMER LEAGUE

Mar 22: Necaxa 3 Veracruz 0.
Mar 23: Toluca 3 Tigres 1; Cruz Azul 1 La Piedad 5; Monterrey 1 Pachuca 0; Tecos UAG 4 Atlante 0.
Mar 24: Atletico Celaya 1 America 1; Guadalajara 0 Atletico Morelia 1; Santos 3 Puebla 0; Leon 1 Atlas 1.
Mar 27: Necaxa 1 Atletico Morelia 2.
Mar 30: Veracruz 2 Toluca 1; Tigres 0 Monterrey 0; Atlante 2 Santos 1; Puebla 2 Cruz Azul 2; Atlas 1 Necaxa 3.
Mar 31: Atletico Morelia 2 Tecos UAG 2; Pachuca 1 Atletico Celaya 1; La Piedad 3 Pumas UNAM 1; America 2 Guadalajara 3.
Apr 3: America 2 Santos 2.
Apr 6: Toluca 5 Atlas 1; Monterrey 0 Veracruz 0; Tecos UAG 2 America 2.
Apr 7: Atletico Celaya 1 Tigres 0; Guadalajara 1 Pachuca 2; Pumas UNAM 0 Cruz Azul 0; Atlante 3 Puebla 3; Leon 2 La Piedad 1; Santos 4 Atletico Morelia 3.
Apr 10: La Piedad 3 Necaxa 1; Veracruz 1 Atletico Celaya 2; Puebla 1 Pumas UNAM 2; Pachuca 2 Tecos UAG 2; Tigres 1 Guadalajara 0; Atlas 5 Monterrey 1.
Apr 11: Cruz Azul 3 Leon 1.
Apr 13: Toluca 3 La Piedad 1; Tecos UAG 1 Tigres 1.
Apr 14: Atletico Morelia 5 Puebla 2; Atlante 0 America 1; Atletico Celaya 0 Atlas 0; Necaxa 1 Cruz Azul 1; Leon 2 Pumas UNAM 4; Santos 3 Pachuca 2.
Apr 15: Guadalajara 1 Veracruz 2.
Apr 17: Atletico Morelia 2 Atlante 3.
Apr 20: Veracruz 2 Tecos UAG 0; Tigres 2 Santos 1; Cruz Azul 2 Toluca 2; America 1 Atletico Morelia 1; Atlas 1 Guadalajara 1.
Apr 21: Pachuca 1 Atlante 2; Pumas UNAM 1 Necaxa 0; La Piedad 1 Monterrey 0; Leon 2 Puebla 3.
Apr 27: Toluca 0 Pumas UNAM 2; Tecos UAG 1 Atlas 2; Necaxa 2 Leon 0; Monterrey 1 Cruz Azul 1; Puebla 1 America 2; Santos 5 Veracruz 1; Atletico Morelia 4 Pachuca 1; Atlante 2 Tigres 1; Atletico Celaya 0 La Piedad 4.

GROUP 1 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atlas	18	8	6	4	30	28	30
Cruz Azul	18	7	6	5	32	29	27
Guadalajara	18	5	7	6	22	21	22
Monterrey	18	5	5	8	21	28	20
At Celaya	18	5	5	8	19	29	20

GROUP 2 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
La Piedad	18	12	1	5	35	17	37
Toluca	18	10	5	3	35	17	35
Santos	18	9	4	5	42	31	31
At Morelia	18	8	5	5	34	25	29
Veracruz	18	7	3	8	22	30	24

GROUP 3 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Necaxa	18	7	6	5	34	23	27
America	18	7	6	5	27	23	27
Atlante	18	5	5	8	23	29	20
Tecos UAG	18	2	8	8	25	34	14
Leon	18	2	4	12	17	36	10

GROUP 4 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pumas UNAM	18	9	5	4	30	22	32
Tigres	18	7	6	5	25	23	27
Pachuca	18	6	4	8	26	33	22
Puebla	18	2	5	11	24	45	11

Group winners plus the two runners-up with most points qualified directly for the quarter-finals; the two other runners-up and the two other sides with most points qualified for the play-offs

TOP GOALSCORERS
19 Sebastian Abreu (Cruz Azul)
14 Jose Cardozo (Toluca)
13 Jared Borgetti (Santos)
13 Claudinho da Silva (La Piedad)
11 Jose Luis Calderon (Atlas)
11 Martin Rodriguez (Veracruz)

Play-offs

1st legs
May 2: Cruz Azul 1 Atletico Morelia 2; Tigres 2 Santos 2.

2nd legs
May 5: Santos 1 Tigres 1 *Agg 3-3. Santos on away goals*; Atletico Morelia 3 Cruz Azul 2 *Atletico 5-3 on agg.*

Quarter-finals

1st legs
May 8: Necaxa 1 Toluca 0.
May 9: America 3 La Piedad 1; Atletico Morelia 1 Pumas UNAM 3; Atlas 2 Santos 1.

2nd legs
May 11: Toluca 0 Necaxa 2 *Necaxa 3-0 on agg.*
May 12: Pumas UNAM 1 Atletico Morelia 0 *Pumas 4-1 on agg*; La Piedad 1 America 3 *America 6-2 on agg*; Santos 2 Atlas 1 *Agg 3-3. Santos on better regular season record.*

Semi-finals

1st legs
May 14: America 0 Pumas UNAM 0.
May 16: Necaxa 1 Santos 0.

2nd legs
May 18: Pumas UNAM 1 America 2 *America 2-1 on agg.*
May 19: Santos 0 Necaxa 0 *Necaxa 1-0 on agg.*

UNITED STATES

Apr 6: Los Angeles Galaxy 2 Chicago Fire 1 (aet); San Jose Earthquakes 2 New England Revolution 1; Columbus Crew 1 MetroStars 2 (aet); Dallas Burn 2 DC United 1.
Apr 13: Los Angeles Galaxy 1 Dallas Burn 1 (aet); Kansas City Wizards 2 San Jose Earthquakes 1; Colorado Rapids 1 MetroStars 2.
Apr 20: San Jose Earthquakes 2 Colorado Rapids 0; Columbus Crew 0 New England Revolution 2; DC United 2 Kansas City Wizards 1 (aet); MetroStars 0 Chicago Fire 2; Dallas Burn 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 1 (aet).
Apr 27: Los Angeles Galaxy 0 Colorado Rapids 1 (aet); MetroStars 1 San Jose Earthquakes 1 (aet); Columbus Crew 1 DC United 0; Chicago Fire 2 New England Revolution 2 (aet); Dallas Burn 1 Kansas City Wizards 1 (aet).
May 4: San Jose Earthquakes 3 Columbus Crew 2; DC United 0 Chicago Fire 3; Kansas City Wizards 1 Los Angeles Galaxy 2 (aet); MetroStars 1 Dallas Burn 2.
May 11: San Jose Earthquakes 2 MetroStars 1; Chicago Fire 0 Los Angeles Galaxy 1; New England Revolution 2 Dallas Burn 0; Colorado Rapids 2 Kansas City Wizards 0.
May 12: DC United 1 Columbus Crew 1 (aet).
May 18: Dallas Burn 3 Colorado Rapids 1; DC United 4 MetroStars 2; Columbus Crew 2 San Jose Earthquakes 0; Kansas City Wizards 2 Los Angeles Galaxy 1.
May 19: New England Revolution 1 Chicago Fire 3.
May 22: Colorado Rapids 5 New England Revolution 2.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chicago Fire	8	4	1	3	13	8	13
MetroStars	9	3	1	5	12	15	10
DC United	9	3	1	5	11	14	10
Columbus Crew	8	3	1	4	8	10	10
New England	7	2	1	4	11	15	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colorado Rapids	9	5	1	3	14	10	16
San Jose	9	5	1	3	12	10	16
LA Galaxy	8	4	2	2	10	8	14
Dallas Burn	8	3	3	2	10	10	12
Kansas City	7	2	2	3	8	9	8

LEADING GOALSCORERS
7 Carlos Ruiz (Los Angeles Galaxy)
6 Chris Henderson (Colorado Rapids)
6 Jason Kreis (Dallas Burn)
6 Ante Razov (Chicago Fire)
6 Taylor Twellman (New England Revolution)

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2nd rnd, 1st legs

Apr 14: Al Ahly (Egy) 2 Al Merreikh (Sud) 0; ASEC Abidjan (IvC) 4 Enyimba (Nig) 1; Esperance (Tun) 4 Al Madina (Lby) 0; Raja Casablanca (Mor) 3 Etoile du Congo (Con) 0; Stade Malien (Mli) 0 Jeanne d'Arc (Sen) 3; Stade Olympic de l'Emyrne (Mad) 2 Costa do Sol (Moz) 1; TP Mazembe (DRC) 1 Orlando Pirates (SAf) 1; Zamalek (Egy) 2 Nkana FC (Zam) 0.

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

Apr 27: Al Merreikh 3 Al Ahly 1 *Agg 3-3. Al Ahly on away goals*; Jeanne d'Arc 2 Stade Malien 1 *Jeanne d'Arc 5-1 on agg*; Nkana FC 1 Zamalek 1 *Zamalek 3-1 on agg*; Orlando Pirates 1 TP Mazembe 3 *TP Mazembe 4-2 on agg.*
Apr 28: Al Madina 2 Esperance 1 *Esperance 5-2 on agg*; Costa do Sol 2 Stade Olympic de l'Emyrne 0 *Costa do Sol 3-2 on agg*; Enyimba 3 ASEC Abidjan 1 *ASEC 5-4 on agg*; Etoile du Congo 3 Raja Casablanca 2 *Raja 5-3 on agg.*

CUP-WINNERS CUP

1st rnd, 2nd leg

Apr 14: AS Vita Club (DRC) 3 Zanaco (Zam) 0 *Agg 4-4. Vita Club on away goals.*

2nd rnd, 1st legs

Apr 13: Al Ahli (Lby) 2 Al Mehalla (Egy) 1; Alliance (IvC) 1 Wydad Casablanca (Mor) 1; Mangasport (Gab) 1 USM Alger (Alg) 2.
Apr 14: Al Mourada (Sud) 2 CS Hammam-Lif (Tun) 0; AS Police (Con) 0 Fovu de Baham (Cam) 0; Santos (SAf) 3 Asante Kotoko (Gha) 3.
Apr 21: Jeanne d'Arc (Reu) 3 US Transfoot (Mad) 1.
Apr 27: St Michel United (Sey) 0 AS Vita Club 1.

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

Apr 26: Al Mehalla 2 Al Ahli 0 *Al Mehalla 3-2 on agg.*
Apr 27: USM Alger 1 Mangasport 0 *USM 3-1 on agg.*
Apr 28: Asante Kotoko 1 Santos 1 *Agg 4-4. Kotoko on away goals*; CS Hammam-Lif 0 Al Mourada 1 *Al Mourada 3-0 on agg*; Fovu de Baham 0 AS Police 0 *Agg 0-0. Police 4-3 on pens*; Wydad Casablanca 5 Alliance 0 *Wydad 6-1 on agg.*
May 12: AS Vita Club 2 St Michel United 1 *Vita Club 3-1 on agg.*

US Transfoot v Jeanne d'Arc – Jeanne d'Arc did not arrive for second leg; US Transfoot walkover

CAF CUP

2nd rnd, 1st legs

Apr 13: ASA (Mad) 1 Mtibwa Sugar (Tan) 0; ASC Ndiambour (Sen) 0 JS Kabylie (Alg) 0; Botswana Defence Force XI (Bot) 4 Al Masry (Egy) 2; FUS Rabat (Mor) 0 Satellite FC (IvC) 0.
Apr 14: Maranatha de Fiokpo (Tog) 2 Djoliba (Mli) 1; Rayon Sport (Rwa) 2 Satellite (Gui) 3; St George (Eth) 2 Etoile Sahel (Tun) 1; Tonnerre Yaounde (Cam) 1 TP Akwembe (Gab) 0.

2nd rnd, 2nd legs

Apr 26: Al Masry 2 Botswana Defence Force XI 0 *Agg 4-4. Al Masry on away goals.*
Apr 27: Djoliba 1 Maranatha de Fiokpo 0 *Agg 2-2. Djoliba on away goals*; JS Kabylie 6 ASC Ndiambour 3 *JS Kabylie 6-3 on agg*; Mtibwa Sugar 2 ASA 1 *Agg 2-2. ASA on away goals*; Satellite (IvC) 1 FUS Rabat 0 *Satellite 1-0 on agg.*
Apr 28: Etoile Sahel 8 St George 3 *Etoile 9-5 on agg*; Satellite (Gui) 2 Rayon Sport 4 *Rayon 6-5 on agg*; TP Akwembe 2 Tonnerre Yaounde 2 *Tonnerre 3-2 on agg.*

ASIA

JAPAN

FIRST STAGE

Mar 31: Vegalta Sendai 2 Vissel Kobe 1 (aet); JEF United Ichihara 0 Yokohama F Marinos 3; Gamba Osaka 2 Urawa Reds 2 (aet); Shimizu S-Pulse 2 FC Tokyo 1 (aet); Nagoya Grampus Eight 0 Consadole Sapporo 3; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0 Kashima Antlers 1; Tokyo Verdy 1969 0 Kashiwa Reysol 1; Jubilo Iwata 3 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1.
Apr 6: Kashima Antlers 0 Vegalta Sendai 2; Shimizu S-Pulse 0 Nagoya Grampus Eight 4; Kyoto Purple Sanga 5 Tokyo Verdy 1969 1; Vissel Kobe 0 Jubilo Iwata 1 (aet); FC Tokyo 1 JEF United Ichihara 1 (aet); Kashiwa Reysol 4 Consadole Sapporo 1.
Apr 7: Urawa Reds 4 Sanfrecce Hiroshima 1; Yokohama F Marinos 2 Gamba Osaka 1 (aet).
Apr 13: Consadole Sapporo 1 Kyoto Purple Sanga 2 (aet); Gamba Osaka 5 FC Tokyo 0; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0 Yokohama F Marinos 2; Tokyo Verdy 1969 1 Vissel Kobe 1 (aet); Nagoya Grampus Eight 2 Kashiwa Reysol 0; Jubilo Iwata 2 Kashima Antlers 0.
Apr 14: JEF United Ichihara 1 Shimizu S-Pulse 1 (aet); Vegalta Sendai 1 Urawa Reds 2 (aet).
Apr 20: Consadole Sapporo 1 Kashima Antlers 3; Gamba Osaka 3 JEF United Ichihara 0; Jubilo Iwata 1 Yokohama F Marinos 3; Tokyo Verdy 1969 2 Urawa Reds 1 (aet); Kashiwa Reysol 1 Vissel Kobe 0 (aet); Nagoya Grampus Eight 0 Kyoto Purple Sanga 1.
Apr 21: Vegalta Sendai 3 FC Tokyo 1; Sanfrecce Hiroshima 0 Shimizu S-Pulse 0.

JAPAN – FIRST STAGE

	P	W1	W2	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yokohama FM	7	5	1	1	0	13	3	18
Jubilo Iwata	7	5	1	0	1	16	6	17
Vegalta Sendai	7	5	1	0	1	15	6	17
Gamba Osaka	7	4	0	1	2	15	7	13
Kashiwa Reysol	7	3	1	0	3	10	10	11
Shimizu S-Pulse	7	1	3	2	1	7	7	11
Grampus Eight	7	3	0	0	4	7	7	9
Kashima Antlers	7	3	0	0	4	8	10	9
Kyoto PS	7	2	1	0	4	11	11	8
FC Tokyo	7	2	0	2	3	9	14	8
JEF United	7	2	0	2	3	5	11	8
Sanfrecce H	7	2	0	1	4	9	11	7
Urawa Reds	7	1	1	1	4	10	10	6
Vissel Kobe	7	1	0	1	5	5	8	4
Tokyo Verdy	7	0	1	1	5	6	13	3
Consadole Sapp	7	1	0	0	6	7	19	3

W1 = win in 90mins – 3pts; W2 = win in extra time – 2pts; Draw = 1pt

World Cup Squads

ARGENTINA

GOALKEEPERS
24 Roberto BONANO
1 German BURGOS
12 Pablo CAVALLERO

DEFENDERS
2 Roberto AYALA
22 Jose CHAMOT
13 Diego PLACENTE
4 Mauricio POCHETTINO
6 Walter SAMUEL

MIDFIELDERS
16 Pablo AIMAR
5 Matias ALMEYDA
20 Marcelo GALLARDO
15 Claudio HUSAIN
18 Cristian 'KILY' GONZALEZ
17 Gustavo LOPEZ
23 Ariel ORTEGA
14 Diego SIMEONE
3 Juan Pablo SORIN
11 Juan Sebastian VERON
8 Javier ZANETTI

FORWARDS
9 Gabriel BATISTUTA
21 Claudio CANIGGIA
7 CLAUDIO LOPEZ
19 Hernan CRESPO

COACH
Marcelo BIELSA

BELGIUM

GOALKEEPERS
1 Geert DE VLIEGER
23 Frederic HERPOEL
13 Francky VANDENDRIESSCHE

DEFENDERS
3 Glen DE BOECK
2 Eric DEFLANDRE
15 Jacky PEETERS
16 Daniel VAN BUYTEN
12 Peter VAN DER HEYDEN
5 Nico VAN KERCKHOVEN
4 Eric VAN MEIR

MIDFIELDERS
21 Danny BOFFIN
17 Gaetan ENGLEBERT
8 Bart GOOR
6 Timmy SIMONS
19 Bernd THUS
18 Yves VANDERHAEGHE
14 Sven VERMANT
10 Johan WALEM
7 Marc WILMOTS

FORWARDS
22 Mbo MPENZA
9 Wesley SONCK
20 Branko STRUPAR
11 Gert VERHEYEN

COACH
Robert WASEIGE

BRAZIL

GOALKEEPERS
12 DIDA
1 MARCOS
22 ROGERIO CENI

DEFENDERS
14 ANDERSON POLGA
13 BELLETTI
2 CAFU
5 EDMILSON
16 JUNIOR
3 LUCIO
6 ROBERTO CARLOS
4 ROQUE JUNIOR

MIDFIELDERS
17 DENILSON
7 EMERSON Ferreira
8 GILBERTO SILVA
19 JUNINHO Paulista
23 KAKA
15 KLEBERSON
18 VAMPETA

FORWARDS
20 EDILSON
21 LUIZAO
10 RIVALDO
11 RONALDINHO
9 RONALDO

COACH
Luiz Felipe SCOLARI

CAMEROON

GOALKEEPERS
1 Boukar ALIOUM
22 Idriss Carlos KAMENI
16 Jacques SONGO'O

DEFENDERS
5 Raymond KALLA
13 Lucien METTOMO
7 Joseph NDO
6 Pierre NJANKA
8 Geremi NJITAP
4 Rigobert SONG
2 Bill TCHATO
3 Pierre WOME

MIDFIELDERS
15 Nicolas ALNOUDJI
19 Eric DJEMBA-DJEMBA
14 Joel EPALLE
12 Lauren ETAME-MAYER
17 Marc-Vivien FOE
23 Daniel NGOM KOME
20 Salomon OLEMBE

FORWARDS
9 Samuel ETO'O
21 Joseph-Desire JOB
10 Patrick MBOMA
11 Pius N'DIEFI
18 Patrick SUFFO

COACH
Winfried SCHAFER (Ger)

FRANCE

GOALKEEPERS
16 Fabien BARTHEZ
23 Gregory COUPET
1 Ulrich RAME

DEFENDERS
2 Vincent CANDELA
5 Philippe CHRISTANVAL
8 Marcel DESAILLY
18 Frank LEBOEUF
3 Bixente LIZARAZU
19 Willy SAGNOL
13 Mickael SILVESTRE
15 Lilian THURAM

MIDFIELDERS
14 Alain BOGHOSSIAN
6 Youri DJORKAEFF
7 Claude MAKELELE
22 Johan MICOUD
17 Emmanuel PETIT
4 Patrick VIEIRA
10 Zinedine ZIDANE

FORWARDS
9 Djibril CISSE
21 Christophe DUGARRY
12 Thierry HENRY
20 David TREZEGUET
11 Sylvain WILTORD

COACH
Roger LEMERRE

GERMANY

GOALKEEPERS
23 Hans-Jorg BUTT
1 Oliver KAHN
12 Jens LEHMANN

DEFENDERS
4 Frank BAUMANN
15 Sebastian KEHL
2 Thomas LINKE
21 Christoph METZELDER
3 Marko REHMER
6 Christian ZIEGE

MIDFIELDERS
13 Michael BALLACK
17 Marco BODE
18 Jorg BOHME
22 Torsten FRINGS
8 Dietmar HAMANN
16 Jens JEREMIES
5 Carsten RAMELOW
10 Lars RICKEN
19 Bernd SCHNEIDER

FORWARDS
14 Gerald ASAMOAH
20 Oliver BIERHOFF
9 Carsten JANCKER
11 Miroslav KLOSE
7 Oliver NEUVILLE

COACH
Rudi VOLLER

ITALY

GOALKEEPERS
12 Christian ABBIATI
1 Gianluigi BUFFON
22 Francesco TOLDO

DEFENDERS
5 Fabio CANNAVARO
4 Francesco COCO
15 Mark IULIANO
3 Paolo MALDINI
23 Marco MATERAZZI
13 Alessandro NESTA
2 Christian PANUCCI

MIDFIELDERS
14 Luigi DI BIAGIO
16 Angelo DI LIVIO
11 Cristiano DONI
8 Gennaro GATTUSO
17 Damiano TOMMASI
19 Gianluca ZAMBROTTA
6 Cristiano ZANETTI

FORWARDS
7 Alessandro DEL PIERO
18 Marco DELVECCHIO
9 Filippo INZAGHI
20 Vincenzo MONTELLA
10 Francesco TOTTI
21 Christian VIERI

COACH
Giovanni TRAPATTONI

JAPAN

GOALKEEPERS
1 Yoshikatsu KAWAGUCHI
12 Seigo NARAZAKI
23 Hitoshi SOGAHATA

DEFENDERS
2 Yutaka AKITA
6 Toshihiro HATTORI
3 Naoki MATSUDA
17 Tsuneyasu MIYAMOTO
4 Ryuzo MORIOKA
16 Koji NAKATA

MIDFIELDERS
14 ALEX
15 Takashi FUKUNISHI
22 Daisuke ICHIKAWA
5 Junichi INAMOTO
8 Hiroaki MORISHIMA
20 Tomokazu MYOJIN
7 Hidetoshi NAKATA
19 Mitsuo OGASAWARA
18 Shinji ONO
21 Kazuyuki TODA

FORWARDS
10 Masashi NAKAYAMA
9 Akinori NISHIZAWA
11 Takayuki SUZUKI
13 Atsushi YANAGISAWA

COACH
Philippe TROUSSIER (Fra)

CHINA

GOALKEEPERS
1 AN Qi
22 JIANG Jin
23 OU Chuliang

DEFENDERS
17 DU Wei
5 FAN Zhiyi
14 LI Weifeng
7 SUN Jihai
4 WU Chengying
21 XU Yunlong
3 YANG Pu
2 ZHANG Enhua

MIDFIELDERS
13 GAO Yao
8 LI Tie
18 LI Xiaopeng
9 MA Mingyu
19 QI Hong
6 SHAO Jiayi
11 YU Genwei
15 ZHAO Junzhe

FORWARDS
10 HAO Haidong
16 QU Bo
12 SU Maozhen
20 YANG Chen

COACH
Bora MILUTINOVIC (Yug)

COSTA RICA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Erick LONNIS
18 Alvaro MESEN
23 Lester MORGAN

DEFENDERS
22 Carlos CASTRO
21 Pablo CHINCHILLA
2 Jervis DRUMMOND
3 Luis MARIN
5 Gilberto MARTINEZ
14 Juan Jose RODRIGUEZ
15 Harold WALLACE
4 Mauricio WRIGHT

MIDFIELDERS
16 Steven BRYCE
10 Walter CENTENO
19 Rodrigo CORDERO
11 Ronald GOMEZ
6 Wilmer LOPEZ
8 Mauricio SOLIS
20 William SUNSING
13 Daniel VALLEJOS

FORWARDS
7 Rolando FONSECA
17 Hernan MEDFORD
12 Winston PARKS
9 Paulo WANCHOPE

COACH
Alexandre GUIMARAES

CROATIA

GOALKEEPERS
12 Tomislav BUTINA
1 Stipe PLETIKOSA
23 Vladimir VASILJ

DEFENDERS
21 Robert KOVAC
15 Danijel SARIC
20 Dario SIMIC
3 Josip SIMUNIC
6 Boris ZIVKOVIC

MIDFIELDERS
17 Robert JARNI
10 Niko KOVAC
8 Robert PROSINECKI
5 Milan RAPAJIC
2 Anthony SERIC
14 Zvonimir SOLDO
13 Mario STANIC
4 Stjepan TOMAS
16 Jurica VRANJES
7 Davor VUGRINEC

FORWARDS
22 Bosko BALABAN
11 Alen BOKSIC
18 Ivica OLIC
9 Davor SUKER
19 Goran VLAOVIC

COACH
Mirko JOZIC

DENMARK

GOALKEEPERS
22 Jesper CHRISTIANSEN
16 Peter KJAER
1 Thomas SORENSEN

DEFENDERS
5 Jan HEINTZE
6 Thomas HELVEG
3 Rene HENRIKSEN
12 Niclas JENSEN
4 Martin LAURSEN
13 Steven LUSTU
15 Jan MICHAELSEN

MIDFIELDERS
20 Kasper BOGELUND
7 Thomas GRAVESEN
14 Claus JENSEN
17 Christian POULSEN
23 Brian STEEN NIELSEN
2 Stig TOFTING

FORWARDS
8 Jesper GRONKJAER
10 Martin JORGENSEN
18 Peter LOVENKRANDS
21 Peter MADSEN
19 Dennis ROMMEDAHL
11 Ebbe SAND
9 Jon Dahl TOMASSON

COACH
Morten OLSEN

ECUADOR

GOALKEEPERS
1 Jose CEVALLOS
12 Geovani IBARRA
22 Daniel VITERI

DEFENDERS
15 Marlon AYOVI
4 Ulises DE LA CRUZ
17 Giovany ESPINOZA
6 Raul GUERRON
3 Ivan HURTADO
2 Augusto POROSO

MIDFIELDERS
10 Alex AGUINAGA
23 Walter AYOVI
14 Juan Carlos BURBANO
16 Cleber CHALA
8 Luis GOMEZ
19 Edison MENDEZ
5 Alfonso OBREGON
21 Wellington SANCHEZ
20 Edwin TENORIO

FORWARDS
7 Nicolas ASENCIO
11 Agustin DELGADO
13 Angel FERNANDEZ
9 Ivan KAVIEDES
18 Carlos TENORIO

COACH
Hernan Dario GOMEZ (Col)

ENGLAND

GOALKEEPERS
22 David JAMES
13 Nigel MARTYN
1 David SEAMAN

DEFENDERS
14 Wayne BRIDGE
12 Wes BROWN
6 Sol CAMPBELL
3 Ashley COLE
5 Rio FERDINAND
15 Martin KEOWN
2 Danny MILLS
16 Gareth SOUTHGATE

MIDFIELDERS
7 David BECKHAM
21 Nicky BUTT
19 Joe COLE
23 Kieron DYER
18 Owen HARGREAVES
8 Paul SCHOLES
4 Trevor SINCLAIR

FORWARDS
9 Robbie FOWLER
11 Emile HESKEY
10 Michael OWEN
17 Teddy SHERINGHAM
20 Darius VASSELL

COACH
Sven Goran ERIKSSON (Swe)

MEXICO

GOALKEEPERS
23 Jorge CAMPOS
1 Oscar PEREZ
12 Oswaldo SANCHEZ

DEFENDERS
20 Melvin BROWN
16 Salvador CARMONA
2 Francisco GABRIEL DE ANDA
4 Rafael MARQUEZ
13 Sigifredo MERCADO
22 Alberto RODRIGUEZ
5 Manuel VIDRIO

MIDFIELDERS
21 Jesus ARELLANO
19 Gabriel CABALLERO
3 Rafael GARCIA
8 Alberto GARCIA ASPE
11 Braulio LUNA
7 Ramon MORALES
18 Johan RODRIGUEZ
6 Gerardo TORRADO
14 German VILLA

FORWARDS
10 Cuauhtemoc BLANCO
9 Jared BORGETTI
15 Luis HERNANDEZ
17 Francisco PALENCIA

COACH
Javier AGUIRRE

NIGERIA

GOALKEEPERS
12 Austin EJIDE
22 Vincent ENYEAMA
1 Ike SHORUNMU

DEFENDERS
13 Rabiu AFOLABI
3 Celestine BABAYARO
19 Eric EJIOFOR
5 Isaac OKORONKWO
16 Efetobore SODJE
14 Ifeanyi UDEZE
6 Taribo WEST
2 Joseph YOBO

MIDFIELDERS
8 Mutiu ADEPOJU
15 Justice CHRISTOPHER
7 Pius IKEDIA
11 Garba LAWAL
10 Austin OKOCHA
23 Femi OPABUNMI

FORWARDS
17 Julius AGHAHOWA
18 Benedict AKWUEGBU
4 Nwankwo KANU
20 James OBIORAH
9 Bartholomew OGBECHE
21 John UTAKA

COACH
Adegboye ONIGBINDE

PARAGUAY

GOALKEEPERS
1 Jose Luis CHILAVERT
22 Ricardo TAVARELLI
12 Justo VILLAR

DEFENDERS
2 Francisco ARCE
5 Celso AYALA
18 Julio Cesar CACERES
21 Denis CANIZA
4 Carlos GAMARRA
19 Daniel SANABRIA
3 Pedro SARABIA

MIDFIELDERS
10 Roberto ACUNA
8 Guido ALVARENGA
15 Carlos BONET
11 Jorge CAMPOS
17 Juan Carlos FRANCO
14 Diego GAVILAN
16 Gustavo MORINIGO
13 Carlos PAREDES
6 Estanislao STRUWAY

FORWARDS
7 Richart BAEZ
20 Jose CARDOZO
23 Nelson CUEVAS
9 Roque SANTA CRUZ

COACH
Cesare MALDINI (Ita)

POLAND

GOALKEEPERS
1 Jerzy DUDEK
12 Radoslaw MAJDAN
22 Adam MATYSEK

DEFENDERS
20 Jacek BAK
13 Arkadiusz GLOWACKI
6 Tomasz HAJTO
2 Tomasz KLOS
16 Maciej MURAWSKI
5 Tomasz RZASA
15 Tomasz WALDOCH
4 Michal ZEWLAKOW
3 Jacek ZIELINSKI

MIDFIELDERS
17 Arkadiusz BAK
10 Radoslaw KALUZNY
21 Marek KOZMINSKI
18 Jacek KRZYNOWEK
23 Pawel SIBIK
7 Piotr SWIERCZEWSKI

FORWARDS
9 Pawel KRYSZALOWICZ
8 Cezary KUCHARSKI
11 Emmanuel OLISADEBE
14 Marcin ZEWLAKOW
19 Maciej ZURAWSKI

COACH
Jerzy ENGEL

PORTUGAL

GOALKEEPERS
15 NELSON
16 RICARDO
1 VITOR BAIA

DEFENDERS
3 ABEL XAVIER
22 BETO
4 Marco CANEIRA
5 FERNANDO COUTO
18 Nuno FRECHAUT
13 JORGE ANDRADE
2 JORGE COSTA
23 RUI JORGE

MIDFIELDERS
19 Nuno CAPUCHO
7 Luis FIGO
12 HUGO VIANA
17 PAULO BENTO
6 PAULO SOUSA
14 PEDRO BARBOSA
20 Armando PETIT
10 RUI COSTA
11 SERGIO CONCEICAO

FORWARDS
8 JOAO PINTO
21 NUNO GOMES
9 PAULETA

COACH
Antonio OLIVEIRA

REP OF IRELAND

GOALKEEPERS
1 Shay GIVEN
23 Alan KELLY
16 Dean KIELY

DEFENDERS
14 Gary BREEN
4 Kenny CUNNINGHAM
15 Richard DUNNE
2 Steve FINNAN
3 Ian HARTE
18 Gary KELLY
20 Andy O'BRIEN
5 Steve STAUNTON

MIDFIELDERS
22 Lee CARSLEY
8 Matt HOLLAND
11 Kevin KILBANE
12 Mark KINSELLA
7 Jason McATEER
21 Steven REID

FORWARDS
13 David CONNOLLY
9 Damien DUFF
10 Robbie KEANE
19 Clinton MORRISON
17 Niall QUINN

COACH
Mick McCARTHY

**Roy Keane (no 6) sent home before finals began*

RUSSIA

GOALKEEPERS
12 Stanislav CHERCHESOV
23 Alexander FILIMONOV
1 Ruslan NIGMATULLIN

DEFENDERS
14 Igor CHUGAINOV
13 Vyacheslav DAYEV
2 Yuri KOVTUN
3 Yuri NIKIFOROV
7 Victor ONOPKO
18 Dmitri SENNIKOV
4 Alexei SMERTIN
5 Andrei SOLOMATIN

MIDFIELDERS
15 Dmitri ALENICHEV
20 Marat IZMAILOV
8 Valeri KARPIN
21 Dmitri KHOKHLOV
10 Alexander MOSTOVOI
17 Sergei SEMAK
6 Igor SEMSHOV
9 Yegor TITOV

FORWARDS
11 Vladimir BESCHASTNYKH
16 Alexander KERZHAKOV
19 Ruslan PIMENOV
22 Dmitri SYCHEV

COACH
Oleg ROMANTSEV

SAUDI ARABIA

GOALKEEPERS
1 Mohammed AL-DEAYEA
22 Mohammed BABKR
21 Mabrouk ZAID

DEFENDERS
12 Ahmed Dukhi AL-DOSARI
2 Mohamed AL-JAHANI
6 Fawzi AL-SHEHRI
23 Mansour AL-THAQAFI
5 Mohsin HARTHI
13 Hussain SULIMANI
3 Redha TUKAR
4 Abdullah ZUBROMAWI

MIDFIELDERS
15 Abdullah Jumaan AL-DOSARI
16 Khamis AL-DOSARI
19 Omar AL-GHAMDI
14 Abdullah AL-KHATHRAN
7 Ibrahim AL-SHAHRANI
10 Mohammed AL-SHLHOOB
18 Nawaf AL-TEMYAT
17 Abdullah AL-WAKAD
8 Mohammed HAWSAWI

FORWARDS
11 Obaid AL-DOSARI
9 Sami AL-JABER
20 Al Hassan AL-YAMI

COACH
Nasser AL-JOHAR

SENEGAL

GOALKEEPERS
22 Kalidou CISSOKHO
16 Oumar DIALLO
1 Tony SYLVA

DEFENDERS
21 Habib BEYE
6 Aliou CISSE
17 Ferdinand COLY
2 Omar DAF
13 Lamine DIATTA
3 Pape SARR

MIDFIELDERS
15 Salif DIAO
19 Pape Bouba DIOP
4 Pape Malick DIOP
10 Khalilou FADIGA
12 Amdy FAYE
23 Makhtar N'DIAYE
20 Sylvain N'DIAYE
5 Alassane NDOUR

FORWARDS
7 Henri CAMARA
9 Souleymane CAMARA
11 El Hadji DIOUF
14 Moussa N'DIAYE
18 Pape THIAW
8 Amara TRAORE

COACH
Bruno METSU (Fra)

SLOVENIA

GOALKEEPERS
12 Mladen DABANOVIC
22 Dejan NEMEC
1 Marko SIMEUNOVIC

DEFENDERS
23 Spasoje BULAJIC
5 Marinko GALIC
19 Amir KARIC
6 Aleksander KNAVS
3 Zeljko MILINOVIC
2 Goran SANKOVIC
4 Muamer VUGDALIC

MIDFIELDERS
18 Milenko ACIMOVIC
8 Ales CEH
20 Nastja CEH
14 Sasa GAJSER
7 Djoni NOVAK
11 Miran PAVLIN
17 Zoran PAVLOVIC
13 Mladen RUDONJA
15 Rajko TAVCAR
10 Zlatko ZAHOVIC

FORWARDS
21 Sebastjan CIMIROTIC
9 Milan OSTERC
16 Senad TIGANJ

COACH
Srecko KATANEC

SOUTH AFRICA

GOALKEEPERS
16 Andre ARENDSE
20 Calvin MARLIN
1 Hans VONK

DEFENDERS
3 Bradley CARNELL
13 Pierre ISSA
5 Jacob LEKGETHO
4 Aaron MOKOENA
22 Thabang MOLEFE
2 Cyril NZAMA
19 Lucas RADEBE

MIDFIELDERS
18 Delron BUCKLEY
7 Quinton FORTUNE
8 Thabo MNGOMENI
10 Bennett MNGUNI
12 Tebeho MOKOENA
9 McDonald MUKANSI
21 Steven PIENAAR
11 Jabu PULE
6 MacBeth SIBAYA
15 Sibusiso ZUMA

FORWARDS
23 George KOUMANTARAKIS
17 Benni McCARTHY
14 Siyabonga NOMVETE

COACH
Jomo SONO

SOUTH KOREA

GOALKEEPERS
23 CHOI Eun-sung
12 KIM Byung-ji
1 LEE Woon-jae

DEFENDERS
4 CHOI Jin-chul
20 HONG Myung-bo
7 KIM Tae-young
15 LEE Min-sung
22 SONG Chong-gug

MIDFIELDERS
3 CHOI Sung-yong
8 CHOI Tai-uk
2 HYUN Young-min
5 KIM Nam-il
14 LEE Chun-soo
13 LEE Eul-yong
10 LEE Young-pyo
21 PARK Ji-sung
6 YOO Sang-chul
17 YOON Jong-hwan

FORWARDS
19 AHN Jung-hwan
16 CHA Doo-li
11 CHOI Yong-soo
18 HWANG Sun-hong
9 SEOL Ki-hyeon

COACH
Guus HIDDINK (Hol)

SPAIN

GOALKEEPERS
1 Iker CASILLAS
23 Pedro CONTRERAS
13 RICARDO

DEFENDERS
2 CURRO TORRES
6 Fernando HIERRO
3 JUANFRAN
20 Miguel Angel NADAL
5 Carles PUYOL
15 Enrique ROMERO

MIDFIELDERS
14 David ALBELDA
8 Ruben BARAJA
11 Francisco Javier DE PEDRO
4 IVAN HELGUERA
22 JOAQUIN
21 LUIS ENRIQUE
16 Gaizka MENDIETA
18 SERGIO
17 Juan Carlos VALERON
19 XAVI

FORWARDS
10 DIEGO TRISTAN
12 Alberto LUQUE
9 Fernando MORIENTES
7 RAUL

COACH
Jose Antonio CAMACHO

SWEDEN

GOALKEEPERS
1 Magnus HEDMAN
23 Andreas ISAKSSON
12 Magnus KIHLSTEDT

DEFENDERS
3 Patrik ANDERSSON
13 Tomas ANTONELIUS
14 Erik EDMAN
15 Andreas JAKOBSSON
16 Teddy LUCIC
2 Olof MELLBERG
5 Michael SVENSSON

MIDFIELDERS
7 Niclas ALEXANDERSSON
20 Daniel ANDERSSON
19 Pontus FARNERUD
18 Mattias JONSSON
6 Tobias LINDEROTH
9 Freddie LJUNGBERG
4 Johan MJALLBY
8 Anders SVENSSON
17 Magnus SVENSSON

FORWARDS
10 Marcus ALLBACK
22 Andreas ANDERSSON
21 Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIC
11 Henrik LARSSON

CO-COACHES
Lars LAGERBACK
Tommy SODERBERG

TUNISIA

GOALKEEPERS
16 Hassen BEJAOUI
1 Ali BOUMNIJEL
22 Ahmed JAOUACHI

DEFENDERS
2 Khaled BADRA
12 Raouf BOUZAIENE
23 Jose CLAYTON
15 Radhi JAIDI
14 Hamdi MARZOUKI
4 Mohamed MKACHER
19 Emir MKADEMI
17 Tarek THABET
6 Hatem TRABELSI

MIDFIELDERS
3 Zoubeir BAYA
18 Slim BENACHOUR
13 Riadh BOUAZIZI
8 Hassen GABSI
10 Kaies GHODHBANE
9 Riadh JELASSI
21 Mourad MELKI

FORWARDS
5 Ziad JAZIRI
7 Imed MHADHEBI
11 Adel SELLIMI
20 Ali ZITOUNI

CO-COACHES
Khemais LAABIDI
Ammar SOUAYEH

TURKEY

GOALKEEPERS
12 OMER Catkic
1 RUSTU Recber
23 ZAFER Ozgultekin

DEFENDERS
5 ALPAY Ozalan
3 BULENT Korkmaz
2 EMRE Asik
4 FATIH Akyel
16 UMIT Ozat

MIDFIELDERS
19 ABDULLAH Ercan
10 Yildiray BASTURK
21 EMRE Belozoglu
18 ERGUN Penbe
20 HAKAN Unsal
13 Muzzy IZZET
7 OKAN Buruk
14 TAYFUR Havutcu
8 TUGAY Kerimoglu
22 UMIT Davala

FORWARDS
6 ARIF Erdem
9 HAKAN Sukur
11 HASAN Sas
17 ILHAN Mansiz
15 NIHAT Kahveci

COACH
Senol GUNES

UNITED STATES

GOALKEEPERS
1 Brad FRIEDEL
18 Kasey KELLER
19 Tony MEOLA

DEFENDERS
12 Jeff AGOOS
3 Gregg BERHALTER
14 Steve CHERUNDOLO
2 Frankie HEJDUK
16 Carlos LLAMOSA
4 Pablo MASTROENI
23 Eddie POPE
6 David REGIS
22 Tony SANNEH

MIDFIELDERS
17 DaMarcus BEASLEY
21 Landon DONOVAN
13 Cobi JONES
7 Eddie LEWIS
5 John O'BRIEN
10 Claudio REYNA
8 Earnie STEWART

FORWARDS
11 Clint MATHIS
20 Brian McBRIDE
9 Joe-Max MOORE
15 Josh WOLFF

COACH
Bruce ARENA

URUGUAY

GOALKEEPERS
1 Fabian CARINI
23 Federico ELDUAYEN
12 Gustavo MUNUA

DEFENDERS
19 Joe BIZERA
3 Alejandro LEMBO
2 Gustavo MENDEZ
4 Paolo MONTERO
6 Dario RODRIGUEZ
14 Gonzalo SORONDO

MIDFIELDERS
22 Gonzalo DE LOS SANTOS
5 Pablo GARCIA
7 Gianni GUIGOU
11 Federico MAGALLANES
15 Nicolas OLIVERA
10 Fabian O'NEILL
17 Mario REGUEIRO
16 Marcelo ROMERO
8 Gustavo VARELA

FORWARDS
13 Sebastian ABREU
21 Diego FORLAN
18 Richard MORALES
20 Alvaro RECOBA
9 Dario SILVA

COACH
Victor PUA

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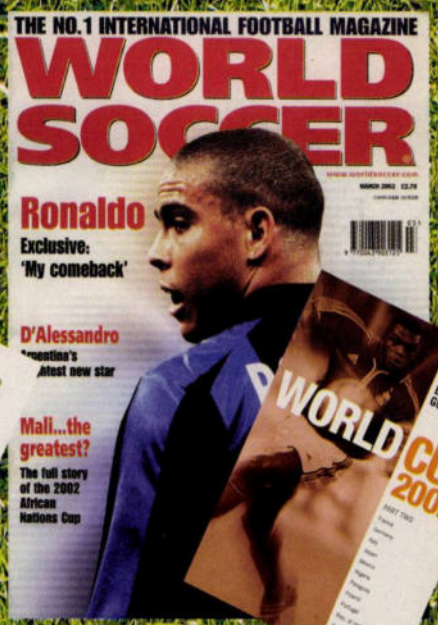

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UEFA CUP

UEFA CUP FINAL

Home pride as Feyenoord triumph

The Dutch win their first European trophy for seven years. Gavin Hamilton reports from Rotterdam

PIERRE VAN HOOIJDONK and Jon Dahl Tomasson may not have set English football alight during their brief Premiership sojourns in the 1990s, but there can be no denying the importance of their contributions to Feyenoord's victory over Borussia Dortmund in the 2002 UEFA Cup Final.

Van Hooijdonk scored twice in the first half and Tomasson sealed victory with a well-taken goal shortly after half-time. Feyenoord thus became the first Dutch side to win a European trophy since Ajax's Champions Cup triumph in Vienna in 1995.

Feyenoord's victory in their own De Kuip stadium in Rotterdam offered Dutch football some consolation for the national team's failure to qualify for the World Cup.

Coach Bert Van Marwijk acknowledged as much afterwards. "Our performances internationally have not been so good and we are not going to the World Cup," he said. "So this is a big positive for us, and it will come as some relief for Dutch football."

Van Marwijk went on to acknowledge that this is as good as it gets for Dutch football at the moment, the height of their ambition. Indeed, no Dutch team has reached the Champions League knockout stages since Ajax lost their title to Juventus in the 1996 Final.

Feyenoord fans celebrated into the night, some clashing with police, who had expected celebrations to be muted following the assassination of the populist anti-immigrant politician Pim Fortuyn days earlier.

The Dutch, and Rotterdammers in particular, were seeking solace in football following Fortuyn's death. Indeed, many of the Feyenoord fans, who vastly outnumbered their German counterparts, would have voted for Fortuyn, whose party swept the board in Rotterdam's local elections earlier this year.

Feyenoord players wore black armbands, but attempts to organise a minute's silence before kick-off were thwarted by the noisy Dortmund contingent.

Both teams were missing a key player through suspension. Feyenoord were without Australian Brett Emerton, Dortmund their German international Christoph Metzelder. Fours days earlier, Dortmund had celebrated snatching the Bundesliga shield from under the noses of Champions League finalists Bayer Leverkusen. And in the early exchanges, the Dortmund players looked lethargic, as if their title celebrations had taken the wind out of their sails. When Van Hooijdonk fired Feyenoord ahead from the penalty spot, it looked as if the Dutch would cruise to victory.

Tomasson, who was finding plenty of space in the gaps left between Dortmund's midfield and defence, was adjudged to have been fouled by Jurgen Kohler after latching on to a poor backpass by Stefan Reuter.

Kohler, playing his final competitive match, was sent off by Portuguese referee Vitor Manuel Melo Pereira. It was a desperately sad way to end such a distinguished career – 105 caps for Germany,

Silver lining...Pierre Van Hooijdonk wins his first major trophy

Big lift...Feyenoord carry off the UEFA Cup for the second time in their history

World Cup, European Championship, Champions League, German and Italian League titles – but the 36-year-old stopper known as 'Iron Foot' had been undone by Tomasson's pace.

The Dane was also playing in his final game – for Feyenoord, having agreed to join Milan on a free transfer.

Van Hooijdonk doubled Feyenoord's advantage after 40 minutes with a wonderful free-kick. He had earlier laid down his marker when he sent a thunderous shot against a post from 30 yards out. From a similar position, the forward curled his shot over the wall and inside Jens Lehmann's right-hand post.

Two up and against 10 men, Feyenoord looked to be cruising at half-time. But the Germans came out fighting, and within two minutes of the restart, Marcio Amoroso put Dortmund back in the game. The Brazilian, joint top scorer in the Bundesliga, won and converted a penalty when he was muscled off the ball by Patrick Paauwe.

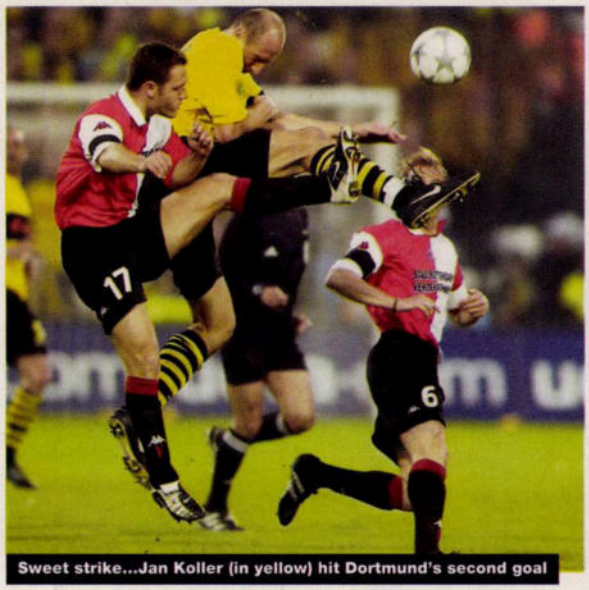
Within four minutes, however, Tomasson restored Feyenoord's two-goal cushion, running on to a deflected through ball from deep and firing home.

It was a well-taken goal, but the best was yet to come, as striker Jan Koller fired Dortmund back into the game with a sweetly struck volley from just outside the area. Koller dodged a challenge from Reuter and fired in a looping shot which dipped under the bar and past the stranded Edwin Zoetebier.

Koller's goal set up an exciting final half-hour. Dortmund substitute Jorg Heinrich went closest to scoring when he just failed to connect with Tomas Rosicky's free-kick. Keeper Lehmann then joined the attack for the last few minutes, but Feyenoord, well-marshalled by their captain Paul Bosvelt, held out.

The last showpiece Final to be played in this stadium, the Euro 2000 finale between France and Italy, went into extra time and was settled by David Trezeguet's golden goal. There was to be no such dramatic outcome this time, but Feyenoord were worthy winners on the night.

This was the Rotterdam club's second UEFA Cup triumph, 28 years on from their first, over Tottenham in 1974.



Sweet strike...Jan Koller (in yellow) hit Dortmund's second goal

"Twice I thought the match was in our pocket," Van Marwijk said. "We were two goals up at half-time but when they scored seconds into the second half I knew that we were playing a very good side.

"I thought the game was sealed when we scored a third, but when they also scored another goal I knew that it would be a race against time."

For all the excitement on the night, the UEFA Cup is now little more than a footnote in a European season, which these days is dominated by the Champions League.

Both finalists had overcome Milanese opposition in the semi-finals. But both were also Champions League rejects, having fallen into the safety net of the UEFA Cup after failing to progress from the opening group stage of the former competition.

Europe's clubs are talking in earnest about switching the UEFA Cup to a mini-league format in a bid to purloin a slice of the TV income that has so far been the preserve of the Champions League. But the dwindling TV incomes that are now a feature of the game around the globe will have sent alarm bells ringing. How many Champions League group games played by these two teams in 2001-02 will be deemed memorable in years to come?

At least the exciting nature of a one-off Final should provide a reality check to the clubs about the appeal of knockout cup football.

After this victory, Feyenoord and in particular the beaming 32-year-old Van Hooijdonk – winning major silverware for the first time in his career in front of his home fans – will need no lectures on the enduring appeal of the UEFA Cup.

'Our victory will come as some relief for Dutch football'
– Feyenoord coach Bert Van Marwijk

FEYENOORD 3
(Van Hooijdonk pen 33, 40, Tomasson 50)
BORUSSIA DORTMUND 2
(Amoroso pen 47, Koller 58)

May 8, 2002 – De Kuip stadium, Rotterdam
HT: 2-0. Att: 46,000. Ref: Melo Pereira (Por)

FEYENOORD	DORTMUND
Zoetebier	Lehmann
Gyan	Evanilson
Van Wonderen	Worns
Paauwe	Kohler – *sent off 31*
Rzasa	Dede
Kalou (Elmander 76)	Reuter
Bosvelt	Ricken (Heinrich 70)
Ono (De Haan 85)	Rosicky
Van Persie (Leonardo 63)	Ewerthon (Addo 61)
Tomasson	Koller
Van Hooijdonk	Amoroso
Subs not used: Timmer, Aros, Korneev, Collen.	Subs not used: Laux, Stevic, Oliseh, Madouni, Sorensen.

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Rivaldo stays ahead of the game

Designer Takeshi Oorei used revolutionary techniques to create a new boot for Rivaldo. How would Brazil's World Cup star react?

Last month, we reported on the lengths to which Japanese designer Takeshi Oorei went to create the ultimate pair of football boots for Brazilian international Rivaldo.

In November 2000, Oorei travelled to Barcelona to see Rivaldo. He was carrying a pair of the new boots which his team of designers back at Mizuno headquarters in Osaka, Japan, had spent almost six months developing.

The new boots were lightweight and featured the Wave cushioning system technology used in Mizuno's award-winning running shoes.

"Rivaldo was completely satisfied with his existing Morelia boots," says Oorei. "So I was a little bit worried that he wouldn't even consider using the new Wave Cup boots."

Thumbs up...Rivaldo's seal of approval

Rivaldo arrived at Oorei's hotel after a long trip back from an away game. "We gave our presentation and showed him the new Wave Cup shoes...and he didn't say a word," Oorei says.

"I was worried, but he explained that he was so pleased with the boots that he had been lost for words. He grabbed his phone and called someone. Ten minutes later, Rivaldo's wife Rose arrived. He had wanted to show her the new boots."

Later that afternoon, Rivaldo tried the new boots in training for the first time. His reaction could not have been more positive.

"They are so light, it feels like I'm not wearing boots at all," was the response from Brazil's number 10.

"They feel really comfortable and the grip is unbelievable – they're like a Ferrari in the way I can turn corners!"

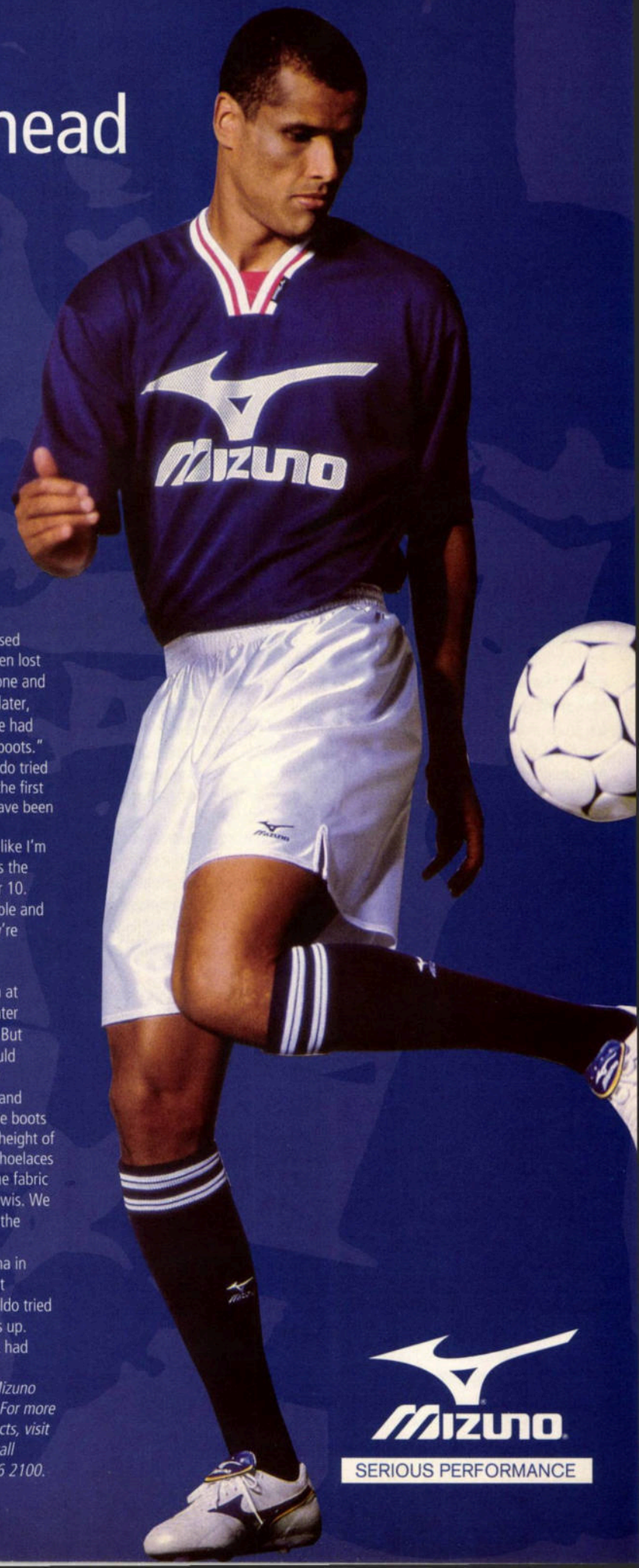
The new boots weighed in at just 217 grams, 28 grams lighter than Rivaldo's Morelia boots. But Rivaldo had one request – could Oorei make them any lighter?

"So I went back to Japan and tried to find a way to make the boots even lighter. We reduced the height of the heel cup and introduced shoelaces made from Dyneema, the same fabric used in shoes worn by Carl Lewis. We also used thinner material on the Mizuno logo label."

Oorei returned to Barcelona in February 2001 with boots that weighed just 200 grams. Rivaldo tried them on and gave the thumbs up.

Takeshi Oorei's hard work had been worth it.

Rivaldo will be wearing the Mizuno Wave Cup at the World Cup. For more information on Mizuno products, visit www.mizunoeurope.com or call customer service on 0118 936 2100.



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Inter fall at the last

Paddy Agnew in Rome sees Juventus snatch the title on the final day of the season

Feeling champion...Antonio Conte roars his delight as Juventus secure the Serie A title once again

IN THE END, football logic will out. As Internazionale fell at the last hurdle of the Italian title contest – thus handing the *scudetto* to arch-rivals Juventus – an uncanny sense of soccer realism reasserted itself, and did so, for once, without cries of 'foul' and 'fix'.

If it is true that Inter have only themselves to blame for not holding on for their 14th title success, and their first since current World Cup coach Giovanni Trapattoni led them in 1989, then it is also true that the strongest team won out – in the end.

Mind you, on the last morning of the season, it had not looked that way. For one thing, Inter were a point clear of second-placed Juventus and two clear of defending champions Roma in third. For another, they found themselves playing their last game away to Lazio at the Olympic stadium in Rome, where surreally the opposition fans had decided to support them. Such is the fierce nature of the rivalry between the Rome city cousins, Lazio and Roma, that the Lazio fans, in their inestimable and unsporting wisdom, had decided to shout for Inter lest a win for their own team might, indirectly, help Roma win the title. Anything, they reckoned, was better than that.

So we were thus presented with the bizarre and unprecedented sight of a packed stadium all decked out in Inter's black and blue colours, with one or two Lazio banners explaining the spirit of the occasion by declaring: "Neither Juventus Nor Roma For the Title."

There were other reasons for questioning the Lazio attitude. For a start, coach Alberto Zaccheroni had already been *de facto* sacked since he was due to be replaced by Roberto Mancini days after the end of the season. Secondly, players such as Czech Karel Poborsky and Argentinians Claudio Lopez and Diego Simeone all knew they were playing their last game for a club that wants rid of them.

At this point, the conspiracy theorists (a thriving breed in these parts) began to argue that Lazio, with only the UEFA Cup to play for and abandoned by their own fans, would simply hand the game (and title) to Inter. When, after just 12 minutes, Lazio goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi dropped a simple corner right at the feet of Inter striker Christian Vieri for the first goal, all those worst suspicions seemed confirmed.

Even a 20th-minute equaliser from Poborsky did not undermine the doubters since within four minutes Inter were in front again, after yet another corner. Luigi Di Biagio converted brilliantly but the chance had been conceded with suspicious nonchalance by Lazio's Portuguese defender Fernando Couto. We told you so – this game is fixed, murmured the doubters.

It was then that football re-emerged. Evidently, not all the Lazio players had read the script. All too obviously stung by the unremitting jeers and taunts of their own fans, they called on the iron in their souls to give arguably their best performance of the season. Inter, meanwhile, never recovered from the psychological blow of conceding a second equaliser (again from Poborsky) in first-half stoppage time.

Two more Lazio goals in the second half were all that both they and Inter deserved. Lazio were defiant and determined while Inter lost their nerve, lost in midfield and lost up front. In that latter context, it must be observed that Brazilian Ronaldo had a nightmare game, suggesting that, previous goals notwithstanding, he is still a long way short of his pre-France 98 form. Woe betide Brazil if they are looking to him to win the World Cup for them.

While Inter were losing, Juve were winning all too easily, 2-0 away to Udinese, to secure their 26th Serie A title. Poor Hector Cuper, Inter's Argentinian coach – beaten in the last ever Cup-winners Cup Final when in charge of Mallorca, beaten in two successive Champions League Finals with Valencia, and now beaten again at the last hurdle. He, at least, when the disappointment has subsided, can look back on a remarkably successful season, notwithstanding Inter's last-day debacle.

If anyone doubts the significance of Cuper's achievement at Inter, let them just look back on the ups and downs of recent seasons, when coaches have come and gone, revolving-door fashion, in a period when the only significant success was the 1998 UEFA Cup. Not for nothing did owner Massimo Moratti pledge his allegiance to Cuper in the days immediately after the Serie A disappointment.

To some extent, the writing had been on the wall regarding Inter's collapse. They had struggled over the last few weeks, while Juventus had looked irresistible. Perhaps mental as much as physical exhaustion was the root cause of a mini-collapse that caused Inter to drop eight points in their last five games. By comparison, Juventus won all their last five and by an aggregate scoreline of 13-0.

The final seasonal statistics only serve to heap further praise on Juve, the Old Lady of Italian football, who registered the best attack in Serie A (64 goals scored), the best defence (23 conceded), while fielding the leading goalscorer in Frenchman David Trezeguet (24, joint top with Piacenza veteran Dario Hubner). All this, too, in their first season for five years without French wizard Zinedine Zidane, and in the season that marked the return of coach Marcello Lippi – the mastermind behind Juve's impressive mid-1990s run of three Italian titles and three Champions League Finals.

In the end, Inter's final fence fall meant they dropped to third place in the table, overtaken by a Roma side that, strangely for a team coached by Fabio Capello, did not realise their maximum potential, either in the Champions League or in Serie A. If Liverpool represented Roma's 'Waterloo' in the Champions League, then it was a 2-2 draw away to already relegated Venezia five weeks from the end of the season that cost them the *scudetto*.

Roma's disappointing season, however, was at least partly linked to the dramatic and painful loss of form experienced by Gabriel Batistuta. If his remarkable performances and scoring in the first half of the 2000-01 season played a major role in Roma's title triumph, then his woeful displays this year played an equally large role in their second-place finish.

When Capello suggested that if Roma had scored the same number of goals this year as last, then they would have won the title, the reference to the unnamed Batistuta was all too clear. In that context, too, Roma's last game of the season, a 1-0 win away to Torino, surely pointed the way forward. The winning goal came via a brilliant chip from boy wonder Antonio Cassano. Generally relegated to the bench this season, the 19-year-old can expect to have a much larger say next term, probably alongside Vincenzo Montella.

Roma, of course, can console themselves with thoughts of the Champions League, in which they will be joined by Juventus, Inter and Milan. The latter managed to pull around their miserable year with a decent final run – they were beaten only once (by Juventus) in their last eight games.

Milan's recovery probably found little favour with neutrals since it allowed them to edge little Chievo out of the Champions League. The side from the Verona suburbs, in their first season in Serie A, proved an authentic sensation, playing good football right to the end. They will certainly be an intriguing UEFA Cup new entry for next season.

Good news for Chievo, too, is that their successful coach, Luigi Del Neri, has opted to stay with them. The same, however, cannot be said of several of their key players such as Brazilian Eriberto, midfielder Christian Manfredini and striker Massimo Marazzina, all seemingly destined to leave.

Joining Chievo in the UEFA Cup will be Lazio, thanks to that last-day hatchet job on Inter, and also, remarkably, Parma, winners of their third Italian Cup when beating Juventus (1-2,1-0) on away goals in the two-leg Final. For Parma, this was a truly helter-skelter year as they shot downhill from the heights of the Champions League (they finished fourth in Serie A last season) to the misery and unfamiliar territory of the relegation zone.

Having only definitively avoided the drop on the penultimate matchday, Parma then galvanised themselves for an excellent display in the second leg of the Final. That said, Juventus were all too obviously in anti-climatic mood following the excitement of their title win five days earlier. Parma's goalscorers were Japan's Hidetoshi Nakata in the first leg and Brazilian Junior in the second leg; Nicola Amoruso and Uruguayan Marcelo Zalayeta scored for Juventus. The Parma players will be coached next season by Cesare Prandelli, the man who led Venezia to promotion to Serie A in 2000-01 but was sacked shortly after the start of the following campaign.

Bologna, Perugia and Torino created no major surprises with mid-table finishes that earned them a place (which they may not all want) in the InterToto Cup. Down at the bottom, the 'Little Prince', Roberto Baggio, may have taken some consolation for having missed out on the Italian World Cup squad from his role in Brescia's successful fight to avoid relegation. This was sealed with a 3-0 win against Bologna on the last day of the season. That result, plus Piacenza's 3-0 win over Verona in a *de facto* relegation play-off, meant that Verona joined Lecce, Fiorentina and Venezia on the trip back down to Serie B.

Ah yes, Fiorentina – their relegation can have surprised no one given their catalogue of judicial, financial and sporting woes this season. The worst aspect of the situation is that, at press time, the club's future, even in Serie B, remains distinctly uncertain given ongoing financial problems and owner Vittorio Cecchi Gori's resolute refusal to sell.

Relegation for Fiorentina, then, and the title for Juventus (regular readers will recall that we named Juve as the obvious favourites last August). As we said, football logic will out.

Time's up for Inter...coach Hector Cuper can hardly believe it as he sees his dreams slip away in Rome

Case for the defence

Jeff King reports on goal-shy Valencia's first League title for 31 years

Guard of honour...champions Valencia are applauded on to the field by Betis before the final game of the season

JUST as predicted in these pages last month, the demands of juggling balls on two supremely taxing stages proved too much even for Real Madrid. A ninth European crown to mark the club's centenary made it all worthwhile in the end, but there's no question that Madrid's European obsession was the main reason Valencia sneaked past them to clinch their first League title in 31 years.

The Champions League Final was Madrid's 66th game of the season. Valencia, who played seven European fixtures fewer and whose Spanish Cup campaign lasted just 90 minutes, played only 49.

Not surprisingly, Madrid paid the price for squeezing the equivalent of half a League campaign into the same time-frame. Vicente Del Bosque's team suffered just two defeats in 17 Champions League games, one of those a meaningless opening group finale at Lokomotiv Moscow. They lost three times in their last five League games alone. Valencia won seven and drew one of their final eight League games.

"Valencia began to win the League the night they were knocked out of the UEFA Cup by Inter," says Madrid sports director Jorge Valdano. "The Champions League takes a heavy toll. Look what happened to the other semi-finalists: Manchester United, Barcelona and Bayer Leverkusen didn't win their leagues, either." In fact, not one of the last eight managed to win their domestic title.

Four days after Madrid's Champions League quarter-final victory over defending champions Bayern Munich, they relinquished top spot in La Liga. Their 3-1 defeat at struggling Osasuna left Valencia one point ahead with four games to play. The real turning point, however, came two weeks later.

Following a physically and psychologically draining Champions League showdown at Barcelona, a Madrid side without Fernando Hierro and Zinedine Zidane, among others, succumbed 3-0 to lowly Real Sociedad. Valencia beat Espanyol 2-1 the same day to open up a decisive four-point lead with two games to play. A week later, the *Ches* clinched the title with a 2-0 win at Malaga.

Valencia are the fourth Spanish champions in as many seasons after Real Madrid (2001), Deportivo (2000) and Barcelona (1999). Between them, Madrid and Barça grabbed 14 of the 15 titles before Depor's maiden championship. That kind of bipartisanship is clearly a thing of the past.

The fact Madrid have been European champions three times in five years tells you everything about their priorities. "Spanish clubs give the Champions League precedence, while in Italy the League is still more important," says ex-Valencia coach Hector Cuper. "That explains the difference in European results."

Real Madrid may have flagged in the final straight but few would begrudge Valencia their title. This time last year the *Ches* were nursing a hangover from their second successive Champions League Final defeat and facing an uncertain future without Italy-bound Cuper and skipper Gaizka Mendieta.

Rafa Benitez replaced Cuper only after several bigger names declined. The 43-year-old coach deserves credit for showing an unshakeable faith in his own ability. So does freshman president Jaime Orti. Like Pedro Cortes before him, when Claudio Ranieri and Cuper were under pressure as their reigns got off to a rocky start, Orti stood by his man.

Valencia went into a December game at Espanyol amid rumours of malcontents in the dressing-room and with the local media and fans screaming for Benitez's head. Two-nil down at half-time, Valencia fought back to win 3-2. That first away win of the season was the first of seven victories and two draws in their last 11 away games.

Spare a thought for Cuper. Valencia clinched the Spanish title on the same day Inter fell at the final hurdle in Italy. Kily Gonzalez, one of several players who didn't always see eye to eye with Benitez, claims Valencia are still Cuper's team. The personnel certainly hasn't changed dramatically – of half-a-dozen new recruits, only Rufete was a regular starter.

Valencia's title triumph was forged on the defence Cuper built. Fifty-one goals in 38 games is the lowest ever strike-rate for Spanish champions; 17 clean sheets more than compensated. Santiago Canizares imposed his character on the side in a manner reminiscent of Peter Schmeichel at his most vociferous. Back from a loan spell at Tenerife, right-back Curro Torres played his way into the Spain side. Left-back Amedeo Carboni is surely the most dashing 37-year-old in world football. Rangy centre-back Mauricio Pellegrino is one of La Liga's most underrated players. Louis Van Gaal's decision to let Pellegrino go after just one season at Barcelona was a mistake.

Milan's decision to offload Roberto Ayala for a paltry £3.5 million was a howler of historic proportions. Daniel Passarella, one of Ayala's predecessors as Argentina captain, was once described as "the best dirty little player in the world". Like Passarella, Ayala is a towering presence, despite a relative lack of stature.

Top scorer Ruben Baraja notched just seven goals, a decent return for a midfielder but the lowest total ever from a La Liga-winning squad. By the end of the campaign, Valencia's nominal forwards had all but disappeared from the equation. Salva played no part in the unbeaten eight-game run-in; fellow Spain striker Juan Sanchez made half-a-dozen late cameos; John Alieu-Carew managed 10 minutes' action in one game; Adrian Ilie's last kick was in January.

Instead, Benitez chose to deploy a 4-2-3-1 system with hard-running all-rounder Miguel Angel Angulo as a lone striker, Pablo Aimar in the hole and two attacking midfielders on the flanks (Rufete on the right, Kily or Vicente on the left). Angulo's knack of dragging defenders out of position and Aimar's subtle probings created space for players attacking from deeper. Baraja's six goals in Valencia's last eight matches was an unlikely strike-rate for a player who'd scored just 11 in his previous 119 League games.

Injuries meant Baraja missed all but the run-in. Aimar spent the first two-thirds of the season in and out of the team. Between them, Valencia's key duo totted up 3,740 minutes' mileage. Eight Real Madrid players managed more minutes on their own. Raul's season lasted 5,214 minutes!

Madrid's best XI against Valencia's best XI is a close call, but there's no question who has the better squad. Twenty-seven players took part in Valencia's League campaign; Benitez's rotations meant 22 played a meaningful role. Del Bosque could never rely on his bench. Madrid only had to be missing two or three first choices to struggle.

"We have to be intelligent enough to plan next season differently," admits Madrid president Florentino Perez. "We can't risk throwing away a year's work in the last month because our first choice XI is worn out."

Even Madrid's superstars wavered on the home front. Raul scored, by his own high standards, a modest 14 League goals. For every Sunday Zidane was in a state of grace he spent another AWOL. Luis Figo was a shadow of his former self, even before a debilitating ankle injury. The run-in defeats at Osasuna and Real Sociedad reflected Madrid's domestic shortcomings. Unbeaten at the Bernabeu since November 2000, too often they failed to roll up their sleeves away from home. Ten defeats in 19 away games to Valencia's five made all the difference. "If we'd played better away against so-called unfancied teams we'd have won the League," admits Zidane.

Deportivo snatched runners-up spot from Madrid by beating Del Bosque's makeshift side 3-0 on the final day. Noureddine Naybet's temporary absence at the African Nations Cup and Donato's long-term injury affected Depor's defensive solidity, but the Galicians played their best-ever football in attack. Diego Tristan was Spain's top scorer with 21 goals, despite starting only 25 games. His relationship with Juan Carlos Valeron and Fran produced La Liga's most sublime moments. Like Madrid, Depor found the Champions League (not to mention the Spanish Cup) a distraction, particularly during a debilitating mid-season run away from Riazor.

For the second consecutive year, Barcelona left it until the final day to seal fourth place and Champions League qualification. Three trophyless seasons for the first time in a quarter of a century reflects the ingrained nature of Barça's woes. A year after departing, club symbol Pep Guardiola raged at the club's fifth column; four-decade servant Carles Rexach stood down as first-team coach to a similar tune.

> 'Van Gaal is a more humble figure than the man who seemingly burnt his bridges at Barça two years ago'

Back for more...Louis Van Gaal

"Our biggest enemy is at home," he said. "Half our fans turn up hoping we'll lose 4-0 so the whole shebang will explode." Rexach went on to rail at the Catalan media. Given the fact he's staying on the payroll as technical secretary, he left it to others to spell out the effects of having a divided board and disenchanted players. At least the returning Van Gaal unites the fans. Whether 90,000 Catalans screaming "Van Gaal out!" is the kind of unity Barcelona need is another matter. The Dutchman certainly seemed to have burnt his bridges when he resigned in May 2000. "I don't like working in this country," he insisted. "My philosophy doesn't sit easily with Spanish culture, and Barcelona are nowhere near as important a club as everybody here thinks. I won more at Ajax in six years than Barcelona have in 100 years."

Judging by his conciliatory tone on re-enlisting for three years, Van Gaal is a more humble man after his failure to take Holland to the World Cup. However, there's been no sea-change in Spanish culture in the ensuing two years.

The annual Camp Nou shake-up could affect some big names. Patrick Kluivert's 18 League goals are a reasonable enough return on paper, but take away four in one match against Las Palmas and three penalties and you have a more accurate reflection of his inconsistent season. Rivaldo's campaign was crippled by injury, and the less said about Marc Overmars the better. And those are the good guys.

In the past three years Barcelona have invested £125 million in 17 players. Nine have already been shipped out and of the survivors, only Javier Saviola looks a safe bet for the future. In his previous spell at Camp Nou, Van Gaal packed his side with Dutchmen. Perhaps he should consider signing a few locals this time. Eight of Depor's Spanish Cup-winning 11 were Spaniards. The Valencia line-up that clinched the title at Malaga boasted seven Spaniards and three Spanish-speaking Argentinians. Six of Madrid's starters in Glasgow were Spaniards.

Celta were in the Champions League frame with two games to play only to lose their nerve yet again with defeats by Sevilla and Rayo Vallecano. The Sky Blues will be joined in the UEFA Cup by surprise package Betis and serial over-achievers Alaves. At the bottom, cash-strapped Canary Islanders Las Palmas and Tenerife did well to extend their agony until the final day. A negligible return on big-money signings Savo Milosevic, Goran Drulic and Esquerdinha is the main reason Zaragoza are back in the Second Division for the first time in 24 years.

A spate of coaching changes marked the end of the season. Mallorca escaped relegation, just, but not before firing Sergio Kresic. Javier Clemente resigned after failing to save Tenerife. Gregorio Manzano quit Rayo Vallecano, ex-Nantes boss Raymond Denoueix took the reins at Real Sociedad, Juande Ramos departed Betis to take over at Espanyol, and Victor Fernandez quit Celta to replace Ramos at Betis.

Atletico Madrid were promoted as Second Division champions. Club president Jesus Gil spent much of his team's run-in in solitary confinement in a Madrid prison. Now he's out on bail and spouting world domination. Claudio Lopez, Mendieta, Diego Simeone and Javi Moreno top his most-wanted list.

Leverkusen lose it

The title goes to Dortmund after the long-time leaders run out of steam. Nick Bidwell reports

Champion touch...Ewerthon scores the goal that clinched the Bundesliga title for Dortmund

ANOTHER season, another Bundesliga anti-climax for Bayer Leverkusen, who again had to settle for the runners-up spot after being thrillingly overhauled by a relentless Borussia Dortmund.

Leverkusen, second for the fourth time in six years, only have themselves to blame for not burying all the 'Neverkusen' jibes this season. The Rhineland side, expertly led by coach Klaus Toppmoller, had been in total control for most of the campaign. They played the most attractive football in the country, won both home and away with monotonous regularity and were seemingly impregnable at the top of the table.

With only three games remaining, the *Leverkusener* must have thought their first Bundesliga shield was in the bag. Second-placed Dortmund were five points adrift, and so confident was Leverkusen general manager Reiner Calmund that he took the opportunity to mock claims from his equally aggressive Dortmund counterpart Michael Meier that his club were still capable of hunting down the leaders.

Yet while Leverkusen tripped up in their next two games – a 2-1 loss at home to Werder Bremen and a most unexpected 1-0 defeat at lowly Nurnberg – Dortmund snatched top spot thanks to maximum points from the visit of doomed Koln (2-1) and on their trip to Hamburg (4-3).

Now the scene was set for the sort of intense final-day drama to which the Bundesliga seems to have exclusive rights. Early on, the portents were good for Leverkusen. Michael Ballack, playing his last League game for the club before moving to Bayern Munich, opened the scoring after 10 minutes at home to Hertha Berlin with a brilliant free-kick. Things looked even brighter when news filtered through that Paul Stalteri had put Werder 1-0 up at Dortmund.

However, the latter were soon to mount a comeback, showing the grit that has characterised their play all season. Czech striker Jan Koller equalised before the break, and then Brazilian midfielder Ewerthon scored what proved to be the winner 16 minutes from time with only his second touch of the ball after coming on as substitute.

Dortmund had clinched their sixth title; Leverkusen's eventual 2-1 win over Hertha was painfully irrelevant.

So where did it all go wrong for the eternal runners-up? Undoubtedly, their exceptional progress in the Champions League encouraged them to take their eye off the domestic ball, while Calmund's analysis was based on player fatigue. "After so many games at home and abroad, we were not fresh enough in the last few weeks of the season," he admitted. "We had become tired and lacked the necessary aggression in our game. Luck was not with us either.

"Until the closing stages, we'd had a great season. It's very difficult to accept, and some of the players are in tears. All the same, congratulations to Dortmund. If you are top at the end of 34 rounds, you are worthy champions."

Bayern Munich president Franz Beckenbauer maintains the title was lost by Leverkusen rather than won by Dortmund, and his theory has some merit. After all, Dortmund did not manage a single League victory against top teams such as Bayern, Leverkusen and Schalke; nor did they look like champions when thumped 4-0 away to Leverkusen in February.

However, although Borussia did not often produce the sort of free-wheeling attacking style that made the *Leverkusener* compelling viewing, they were by no means lacking when it came to technical ability. Effervescent young Czech Tomas Rosicky excelled in the playmaker role, while Brazilian front man Marcio Amoroso provided artistry and outstanding finishing following his club record £16 million move from Parma last summer. Indeed, his 18 goals made him the Bundesliga's joint top scorer with Martin Max of 1860 Munich. Moreover, Amoroso's compatriots – wing-back Dede and Ewerthon – regularly gave full value with their enterprise and ball skills.

Dortmund's triumph was no accident, and the statistics concur. They won the most League games (21), suffered the fewest defeats (6), gained the most points away (31) and, in a category Germans love compiling, they bettered all in 'tackling efficiency'.

The latter was due largely to the good work of their implacable defensive trinity of Christian Worns, Christoph Metzelder and golden oldie Jurgen Kohler, who has now retired to coach the German Under-21s.

Quite simply, Dortmund emerged victorious because they were the most consistent, the most determined. "The boys have shown great character this season," said Dortmund boss Matthias Sammer, who at 34 is the youngest championship-winning coach in Bundesliga history. "We had our bad times, particularly when we were knocked out at the first-round stage of the Champions League. But we had the inner strength to fight back and win the Bundesliga, and get to the UEFA Cup Final.

"No question – we deserved the title. We finished on top, and that's all there is to it. It's all very satisfying, and the team has to be complimented."

Dortmund, Leverkusen and third-placed Bayern Munich – who finished a season empty-handed for the first time since 1995 – will take part in the Champions League next term; Hertha Berlin, Schalke and Werder Bremen are UEFA Cup-bound; while Kaiserslautern, Stuttgart and 1860 Munich have agreed to an early InterToto Cup start.

St Pauli, Freiburg and Koln were relegated from the Bundesliga, to be replaced by runaway Second Division champions Hannover – whose last taste of the top flight came back in 1988-89 – and yo-yo clubs Arminia Bielefeld and Bochum.

Schalke retained the German Cup, overcoming the luckless Leverkusen 4-2 in the Final in Berlin. Dimitar Berbatov put Leverkusen ahead on 17 minutes and they had the chances in the first half to wrap up the game. But Jorg Bohme equalised from a free-kick on the stroke of half-time, and from that moment it was no contest. Victor Agali (later sent off), Andy Moller and Ebbe Sand added goals for the Ruhr club, before Ulf Kirsten netted a late consolation in the last domestic game of a long and successful pro career.

Lyon see off Lens

AT LONG last, Lyon won their first championship, though it came right down to the wire. To the last game, in fact, when their 3-1 home victory over Lens, forever in the frame, enabled them to leapfrog their rivals and take the title by two points.

The triumph was bitter-sweet for Lyon midfielder Pierre Laigle, since it came at the expense of his old club. Yet Laigle, who scored the third goal, would probably not have been playing had playmaker Eric Carriere been fit.

When Steve Marlet left Lyon for Fulham last summer, the way was clear for Sidney Govou to gain a regular place. Govou was a sensation against Bayern Munich in the previous season's Champions League, scoring the goals that condemned the Germans to defeat. At the time, fellow Lyon striker Sonny Anderson ungenerously remarked that despite this, Govou still had a long way to go. Now he seems to be getting there, and nobody should know it better than Anderson, who has had the 22-year-old as his foil this season. Govou scored 10 goals in 29 games.

Defeat was a bitter pill for Lens, yet setting such a pace with a rebuilt team was worthy of the highest praise.

Metz's draw at home to fellow strugglers Lorient condemned both clubs to the drop, as Guingamp beat Troyes 1-0 to escape. Metz coach Gilbert Gress paid the price by losing his job; Lorient's only consolation was in qualifying for the UEFA Cup by beating Bastia 1-0 in the Cup Final.

Up, as champions of Division Two, came little AC Ajaccio of Corsica. But their resources are so meagre that they are likely to struggle to stay in the top flight. The team, which includes former West Ham forward Samassi Abou, did superbly to finish four points ahead of Strasbourg, who have far greater spending power. Nice and Le Havre were also promoted to what will be an expanded 20-team top division next season.

Pauleta of Bordeaux and Auxerre's Djibril Cisse finished joint top scorers with 22 goals. Cisse had more cause to celebrate when he was preferred to Liverpool's Nicolas Anelka in Roger Lemerre's provisional World Cup squad.

The coaches merry-go-round has started again with Claude Puel, out of work since being sacked by Monaco last year, replacing Vahid Halilhodzic at Lille. Philippe Bergeroo has left PSG to take over from Christian Gourcuff at Rennes, while Jacky Bonnevay, of Second Division Beauvais, steps in at Troyes. His predecessor, Alain Perrin, has become Marseille's general manager.

Andre Duclos

Olympique hurdler...Lyon's Pierre Laigle gets the better of Lens' Daniel Moreira

Pro-file Jacques Santini

French title-winning coach moving straight upstairs

BLINK and you would have missed the disappearing act of The Great Santini. One moment, Olympique Lyon coach Jacques Santini was celebrating his team's coronation as 2001-02 French champions; three days later, he had left his post, moving upstairs for a second spell as the club's technical director.

No matter that Santini had guided Lyon to their first League title and his team had produced a stirring effort to peg back then pip Lens on the line. Apparently, he had long since decided this would be his last season in charge of OL and not even the greatest moment of his coaching career would make him change his mind.

Santini, who replaced Bernard Lacombe as coach in summer 2000 after serving as technical director for the previous three years, should feel decidedly more comfortable now he has left the dugout for the backroom. He was rarely at ease in the media spotlight, and while he enjoyed much success at Lyon – the League this season and Champions League qualification and the League Cup last term – he remained one of French football's most-maligned characters. Santini was regularly forced to fend off criticism for alleged safety-first tactics and an inability to handle the host of big names in his squad.

Often the post of technical director is considered an irrelevance, but Santini begs to differ. In his new role, he will be responsible for recruitment and contractual matters, and insists it is a vital mission.

"Experience tells us that recent French champions have found it hard to hold on to their players and their title; my job is to ensure we don't follow that trend," says the 50-year-old. "It's tough to maintain high standards both in the Champions League and domestically. However, we have to be totally equipped for all our commitments.

"Though I have turned a page in my career with OL, I'm proud of what I achieved as coach. I gained enormous professional satisfaction from the way we fought back to overtake Lens in the title race. But I still don't believe our squad this season was as strong as last year."

Santini was clearly unhappy when club president Jean-Michel Aulas sanctioned the sales of Steed Malbranque and Steve Marlet to Fulham last summer.

The fans may not have warmed to Santini because he spent much of an outstanding playing career in the midfield of local rivals Saint-Etienne. However, he will be a hard act to follow.

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Lyon
Born April 25, 1952, in Belfort
Playing career Saint-Etienne, Montpellier
Honours French League 1974, 1975, 1976, 1981 (Saint-Etienne); French Cup 1975, 1977 (Saint-Etienne)
Coaching career Lisieux, Lille, Toulouse, Saint-Etienne, Sochaux, Lyon
Honours French League 2002 (Lyon); French League Cup 2001 (Lyon)

Arsenal double up

League and Cup success for Wenger signals a shift in the Premiership's balance of power, says Gavin Hamilton

ONE of the closest and most memorable title races for years ended with Arsenal clinching the League championship with a 1-0 victory over Manchester United at Old Trafford.

The significance of United surrendering their title in their own back yard will not have been lost on Arsenal, who had won the FA Cup four days earlier against Chelsea.

United were clear favourites at the start of the season, but Arsenal's third League and Cup double, clinched by Sylvain Wiltord's second-half winner against United, suggests a shift in the balance of power in English football.

The current side is, quite possibly, the best ever assembled at Highbury. They certainly played some wonderful, attacking soccer in a season in which they suffered injuries that would have scuppered lesser sides.

The record-equalling statistics tell the story: Arsenal were unbeaten away from home all season, and scored in all 38 League games.

In the Cup Final, a match whose traditional importance was diminished by the scheduling of the League trip to Old Trafford a few days later, Ray Parlour and Freddie Ljungberg scored the goals in the 2-0 win over Chelsea. Both suffered injuries earlier in the campaign, but came back to cover for the absence of others. It was this strength in depth that sustained Arsenal's title challenge. So when the outstanding Robert Pires – voted Player of the Season by football writers – damaged his knee in March, Ljungberg stepped in with crucial goals.

There were also important performances from fringe players who had previously not impressed, such as Edu and Igors Stepanovs.

The key figures for Arsenal were all French: Pires, midfielder Patrick Vieira, striker Thierry Henry and manager Arsene Wenger.

Wenger must now be confident Arsenal can hold on to Vieira, despite the continued interest of Real Madrid. Midfield reinforcements are the priority this summer, as Wenger looks to take Arsenal into the Champions League knockout stage for the first time.

United finished trophyless for the first time since 1998 and they suffered more embarrassment when Liverpool's last-day defeat of Ipswich pushed Alex Ferguson's side into third place. This means they will have to go through the qualifying round of next season's Champions League.

Ferguson blew his top in a well-publicised briefing with journalists before the League game against Arsenal. His torrent of four-letter abuse was sparked by criticism of his signing and subsequent use of Juan Veron. The charge is that Ferguson bought one of the world's best playmakers at a high price (£28.1million) and then played him out of position.

The big problem was always going to be how to fit Veron into a midfield that already functioned very effectively. It is hard to play Roy Keane and Veron in central midfield together – and that was the problem that, like it or not, Ferguson never resolved.

A bigger problem was his defence following the hasty sale of Jaap Stam to Lazio and Laurent Blanc's failure to adjust to the pace of English football.

Summer signings to bolster the defence are inevitable, but United must sell before they can buy – hence the speculation that Veron will return to Lazio after just one season.

One huge plus point for Ferguson was Dutch striker Ruud Van Nistelrooy, who finished as United's top scorer and was voted Footballer of the Year by his fellow professionals.

Liverpool confirmed the progress made under Gerard Houllier. They have now finished fourth, third and second in successive seasons and recently announced plans for a new £70m, 55,000-seat stadium in Stanley Park, 300 yards from Anfield.

Houllier is expected to be busy in the transfer market this summer, especially since blocking a deal to make Nicolas Anelka's move permanent.

Liverpool finished the season on a high, thrashing Ipswich 5-0 and condemning them to Division One, just 12 months after they had qualified for the UEFA Cup. Ipswich's relegation – along with Derby and Leicester – meant Sunderland were safe for another year. The Wearsiders were able to celebrate their survival a week later at Niall Quinn's testimonial, an event that should not go unrecorded.

Quinn, the Republic of Ireland striker, raised almost £1m for children's charities. Instead of players being presented with a gold Rolex watch for appearing, as they were at Dennis Wise's testimonial two years ago, they were given information about how to sponsor children in Africa.

"I don't feel as if I'm giving £1m away. I hope that it is understood that all I'm doing is putting a mechanism in place to raise money for children" said Quinn. "My name has helped but I don't feel comfortable saying I've donated this money, because I haven't. The people of Sunderland, the Republic of Ireland and elsewhere have donated it."

We live in hope that Quinn may have started a trend.

Birmingham won the Division One play-off Final, beating Norwich after a penalty shoot-out, to join Manchester City and West Brom in next season's Premiership.

Birmingham's promotion brought success for former Manchester United captain Steve Bruce six months after he attracted widespread criticism for walking out on Crystal Palace, having previously left jobs with Wigan and Sheffield United.

Highbury heroes...the Arsenal squad bask in the acclaim as they parade the Premiership trophy

Late winner...Peter Lovenkrands

financial loss would be outweighed by the increased competitiveness such a change would engender.

Livingston finished third to qualify for next season's UEFA Cup, a superb achievement for a club that won top-flight status only a year ago. St Johnstone slipped back to the First Division, with Partick Thistle returning to the Premier League a few years after being on the verge of bankruptcy.

Motherwell, however, are now in administration, while near neighbours Airdrie became the first Scottish club to cease trading since the demise of Third Lanark in 1967.

Alan Fairley

SCOTLAND

Cup brings cheer to Rangers

THE rather insipid end to the Premier League programme was compensated by a thrilling finale to the season, as runaway champions Celtic faced Glasgow rivals Rangers in what turned out to be one of the classic Scottish Cup Finals of modern times.

Celtic, who had wrapped up the championship with several weeks to spare, took the lead twice during the Hampden showdown, only for Rangers to fight back each time. The Ibrox side's Danish striker Peter Lovenkrands then headed an added-time winner.

It was Rangers' second trophy of the season – they collected the League Cup with a facile victory over Ayr United a few weeks earlier – and it at least meant manager Alex McLeish had restored a degree of pride to a beleaguered club who were left flailing in Celtic's wake in the League.

The Old Firm continued to make headlines with their proposed move into the English League structure. There is no doubt the Glasgow duopoly have outgrown Scottish football, and it now appears inevitable that they will, in time, take their places in English football in the search of a more competitive environment.

Most other Scottish clubs look positively on the prospect of a League free from the Old Firm, feeling any

WALES

Barry clean up again

BARRY clinched their sixth League title in seven years then completed a second successive Double by beating Bangor 4-1 in the Welsh Cup Final.

Barry finished seven points clear of Total Network Solutions, who pipped Bangor for second place on the final day of the season.

Mid-Wales village side Caersws retained the League Cup by beating Cwmbran 2-1 in the Final.

In the relegation battle, Oswestry won three matches in a row to complete a remarkable escape and condemn Haverfordwest County to the drop, along with Rhayader.

Mel Thomas

N IRELAND

Portadown by a neck

THE most exciting League race for years ended with Portadown holding their nerve to pip Glentoran by a point. Ports won the title for the first time in six years by beating Cliftonville 3-1 in the final match of the season.

Ports' hopes of a Double were dashed, however, when two goals by Chris Morgan gave Linfield a 2-1 win in the Cup Final.

First Division champions Lisburn Distillery and runners-up Institute of Londonderry will join an expanded 12-team top flight.

Roy Kitson

Pro-file Marc Lloyd-Williams

Welsh goal machine still searching for his big break

SCORING goals is hard, whichever League you play in. Once you have a reputation for knocking them in, then defenders tend to pay you closer attention. But Welshman Marc Lloyd-Williams – scorer of 47 goals this season for Bangor City – can find the net from anywhere. His prowess has put him fifth in the ESM Golden Shoe standings, ahead of such luminaries as Ruud Van Nistelrooy and Christian Vieri.

A striker is only as good as his supply. At Bangor, Lloyd-Williams is fed by former Welsh internationals Clayton Blackmore and Simon Davies, who add their nous and creativity to young talent such as Owain Tudor Jones and winger Kenny Burgess. Yet the forward's achievement is still remarkable.

Lloyd-Williams first came to light during his spell with CPD Porthmadog during the 1993-94 campaign, when he was paired with Europe's top scorer for that season, Dave Taylor. Between them they netted 65 goals, with Lloyd-Williams contributing 22. He has scored 148 goals in the League of Wales, overhauling Kevin Morrison's record of 140. He has done it in only 206 starts and now looks forward to making his mark in the UEFA Cup next season.

The 29-year-old, who plays part-time – his other job is as a careers advisor – was also voted player of the season by the League managers. Yet he remains down to earth about it all. "It is a great honour to be listed among Europe's most famous names," says Lloyd-Williams. "I have achieved my aim of being Europe's top scorer this season, and it's a great ego boost to be ahead of the Premiership greats!"

The forward has played a B international for Wales – against Northern Ireland while at Halifax in England – but he is unlikely to realise his great dream of appearing for the senior Wales side, at least not while he remains in the domestic League. However, a return to England is still a possibility, he feels. "I'm confident in my ability and I've been able to score goals wherever I've played," he says. "Had the Nationwide clubs I played for shown the confidence in me that Peter Davenport has at Bangor, I would easily have made my mark in the English professional game. I could still make it."

Lloyd-Williams' high finish in the Golden Shoe standings has helped to raise not only his own profile in the UK and Europe, but also that of the League.

Bangor aim to attack Barry's crown again next season, and it could well be Marc Lloyd-Williams will be the talk of Europe.

Mel Thomas

Fact file

Club Bangor City
Country Wales
Born February 8, 1973, in Llanberis
Previous clubs Locomotive Llanberis, CPD Porthmadog, Bangor City, Stockport County (Eng), York City (Eng), Halifax Town (Eng)
Honours Welsh League 1995; Welsh Cup 1998

Ajax bounce back

The Amsterdam club won the Double after suffering early-season problems, writes Klaas-Jan Droppert

HOLLAND

AJAX finished the season in style by winning the Double within a week. First, they were crowned League champions for the 28th time after one of the most unpredictable title races for years. They then defeated Utrecht 3-2 in a controversial Cup Final. All this came after the club struggled early in the season, travails that led to the departure of coach Co Adriaanse.

Feyenoord were the first of the three main title challengers to fall out of contention as they focused their attention on their ultimately triumphant UEFA Cup campaign. PSV then proved unable to eat into Ajax's lead. Even so the title was not finally decided until the last day, when PSV, needing to win, could only draw 2-2 at lowly De Graafschap. This made Ajax's game away to NEC academic, but the Amsterdam side celebrated anyway with a 2-0 win.

A week later Ajax won the Cup Final with an extra time golden goal from Zlatan Ibrahimovic. But it was the events at the end of normal time that sparked the controversy. With the game already into injury time and Utrecht moments away from a 2-1 victory, Ajax winger Wamberto scored an equaliser from what was clearly an offside position.

After the game, furious Utrecht coach Frans Adelaar claimed that his side had been robbed, while Ajax boss Ronald Koeman stated: "I feel sad for Utrecht. It's still unbelievable that these things happen in football."

Assistant referee Ronald Kloeg, who had failed to spot the offside infringement, wrote a letter to the Utrecht fans and players apologising for his blunder. However, the result stood.

Egyptian Ahmed Hossam had given Ajax the lead in the Final, only for Igor Gluscevic to score twice to put Utrecht within an ace of winning the Cup for the first time since 1985.

Ajax may have won the Double, but their season was far from trouble-free, and their early exit from Europe led to Adriaanse's departure. However, his replacement, Koeman, coped well in adversity, concentrating on shoring up the leaky defence by giving Romanian libero Cristian Chivu a pivotal role. He also switched Hossam from the left wing to the centre, giving the team more attacking power, while the return of schemer Jan Van Halst – out of favour under Adriaanse – gave the team more balance.

Offside goal...but Wamberto's infringement was not spotted

Fortuna Sittard, who were bottom of the League for the whole campaign, filled the automatic relegation berth. They have been replaced by Second Division champions FC Zwolle.

Among those also saying goodbye to the top flight were two veterans of Holland's Euro 88 win. Fortuna keeper Ruud Hesp and AZ forward John Bosman have both now ended their careers. Bosman's farewell was particularly emotional because his five-year-old son was recently killed in a traffic accident.

the title race by Genk. The League triumph rounded off a magnificent first campaign for Dutch coach Sef Vergoossen. The former Roda JC boss succeeded Pierre Denier, who is now on the technical staff.

Genk's enterprising attacking football was a legacy of Denier, who had recruited most of the title-winning players. The notable exception was Moumouni Dagano, of Burkina Faso, who was signed by Vergoossen from Germinal Beerschot. He blended well with Wesley Sonck, whose 30 goals made him Belgium's top marksman.

The decision of Standard Liege coach Michel Preud'homme to become technical advisor at the club has left a much-coveted vacancy. Lierse, who finished a lowly 15th, are also on the lookout for a new coach after sacking Regi Van Acker.

Nicholas Harling

SWITZERLAND

Basle sweep the board

BASLE secured their first League title for 22 years, then clinched a glorious Double by beating Grasshopper 2-1 in the Cup Final, played at their home St Jakob Park stadium.

The long-time League leaders won their ninth championship trophy with several games to spare and eventually finished 10 points clear of last season's champions Grasshopper.

Cameroonian defender Herve Tum gave Basle a fifth-minute lead in the Cup Final with a brilliant solo goal, but Mladen Petric equalised seven minutes before the break. Murat Yakin scored the winner from the penalty spot in extra time after Grasshopper captain Boris Smiljanic deliberately handled in the box. He was sent off for a second booking.

Neuchatel Xamax and Lausanne survived in the top flight following the relegation/promotion play-offs, but Aarau and Lucerne were demoted. Second Division Wil gained promotion for the first time in their 102-year history. Thun were also promoted.

Aarau's Austrian coach Rolf Fringer, who steered the side to the title in 1993 during a previous spell in charge, is to step down.

Muscling in...Mendoza hit three

BELGIUM

Mendoza treble bags Cup for Brugge

ANDRES MENDOZA, the muscular 24-year-old Club Brugge striker, made Belgian Cup history when he became the first player to hit a hat-trick in the first 90 minutes of a Final.

The Peruvian's goals brought his side a 3-1 win over Mouscron in what was an excellent Final, though one tinged with controversy. Mendoza had opened the scoring with an unstoppable shot in the 22nd minute, but substitute Jonathan Blondel equalised on the hour with his first touch.

The arguments started over Brugge's second goal. TV replays supported Mouscron's view that Brugge forward Sandy Martens had fouled Marcin Zewlakow seconds before Mendoza sped away to thunder Brugge back into the lead. By the time Brugge broke away to make a third for Mendoza, Mouscron midfielder Marco Casto had been dismissed for continuing his heated protests.

Mendoza's feat was not in question, however. The only previous player to hit a Final hat-trick – Eric Lambert for Gent in 1964 – had needed extra-time to complete his treble.

The Cup win was some consolation for Brugge, who had been pipped in

Swiss football's best-paid and most popular player, Stephane Chapuisat, was refused a contract extension by Grasshopper and has signed a three-year deal with Young Boys.

Ivar von Rulach

PORTUGAL

Sporting Lisbon supreme

SPORTING LISBON's 1-0 Cup Final victory over Second Division Leixoes brought them their first Double since 1982 and their sixth in total, having earlier secured the League title with a game to spare.

The Lions fought off the challenge of defending champions Boavista,

Going green...Sporting fans party

whose battle with Sporting proved that they are now established among the country's elite clubs.

The Oporto side's sustained challenge meant that Sporting were under even greater pressure than normal when they had to face old rivals Benfica in their penultimate home game. The Eagles were not in the mood to allow Sporting to take the title in front of them and, sure enough came away from Alvalade with a 1-1 draw. This left Boavista, losers the day before at home to Varzim, still with an outside chance of the championship.

However, Benfica again had a hand in determining the destination of the title when defeating Boavista 2-1 a week later in what was probably the last game at the Stadium of Light. The result left Sporting five points clear with just one game to play and set off wild celebrations in the capital.

The party mood was sustained by Sporting's Cup Final victory two weeks later. However, Leixoes were unlucky to lose. They hit the woodwork four times, and lost out to a Mario Jardel goal that was clearly offside.

Alberto da Silva

REP OF IRELAND

Fenlon steps up at Shels

AS the destination of the 2001-02 League title went to arbitration – St Patrick's Athletic lost out to Shelbourne when docked 15 points for using an ineligible player – a managerial merry-go-round preceded the new Summer season, which kicks off on July 7.

Pat Fenlon, a Shelbourne player in recent seasons, is now the manager at Tolka Park following the resignation of Dermot Keely. Keely quit on the final day of the season and is now manager of First Division Kildare County.

Meanwhile, Damien Richardson has left after three years at Shamrock Rovers, who ended up without a trophy when at one stage they had looked on course for a treble. Former Rovers favourite Liam Buckley, who was with First Division Athlone Town last season, is the new man in charge.

Three sides were relegated to reduce the size of the top flight from 12 teams to 10, with Drogheda United the one team to win promotion. Dundalk were one of the sides to go down – with Galway and Monaghan – but gained some consolation by beating Bohemians 2-1 in the FAI Cup Final.

Sean Creedon

LIECHTENSTEIN

Stocklasa first to hit three

MARTIN STOCKLASA became the first player to score a hat-trick for the national side as they drew 3-3 away to Luxembourg in April. His goals gave Liechtenstein a 3-0 lead. However, the dismissals of the visitors' Frederic Gigon and Matthias Beck allowed Luxembourg to snatch a draw.

FC Vaduz, who play in the Swiss Second Division, sacked coach Uwe Wegmann after a poor run of results. However, new Austrian boss Walter Hormann then guided the side to safety from relegation.

Graeme Crawford

Pro-file Dejan Stefanovic

Serb defender revitalising his career at Vitesse

THE early career of Dejan Stefanovic reads like a dream. At the age of 18 when playing for small Third Division club Yumco Vranje, he was signed by Red Star Belgrade, at that time one of the strongest teams in Europe. Within a year, he had secured a first-team place, and when still 20, the talented, left-footed defender made his international debut. Aged just 21 he then landed a place at Sheffield Wednesday in the English Premiership.

However, things took a turn for the worse. His indifferent form at Wednesday meant he lost his place in the Yugoslavia set-up, and when he did eventually come to leave England, in summer 1999, he had difficulty finding a new club. First, he signed a pre-contract with Perugia, but that deal fell through when the Italians failed to sell the surplus of foreign players in their squad. Then, while waiting for the right offer, he joined OFK Belgrade, where he stayed for less than a month after finally securing a move to Vitesse Arnhem in Holland.

Still, Stefanovic remembers his days at Hillsborough with fondness and is determined to return to English football. "The game there is perhaps not the most beautiful, but the Premier League is for sure the toughest and most interesting in Europe. We have a flat in London, where we intend to settle down, and I am positive I will again play in the Premier League in a couple of seasons."

By then he won't have problems with his UK work permit, for in two years' time he'll receive Dutch citizenship. The switch to Holland has suited Stefanovic, who plays in central defence for Vitesse and is one of the best players in his position in the Dutch League. His good performances were rewarded with a recall to the national team after a break of more than three years, and also sparked a likely transfer this summer to Ajax or PSV Eindhoven.

The Serb is an excellent marker, strong in the air, has a good touch and is adept at launching attacks. He has also been used to effect at left-back by Yugoslavia. His weak point is that sometimes he seems to lack aggression.

"I cannot be satisfied with my national team career to date," he admits. "I believe I should have played more games, but it wasn't up to me. I am happy that I'm back now and I am convinced that the best is yet to come. There is still time for me."

Vladimir Novak

Fact file

Club Vitesse Arnhem (Hol)
Country Yugoslavia
Born October 20, 1974, in Vranje
Previous clubs Yumco Vranje, Red Star Belgrade, Radnicki Belgrade (loan), Red Star Belgrade, Sheffield Wednesday (Eng), OFK Belgrade
International debut March 1995, v Uruguay
International caps 15 (0 goals)
Honours Yugoslav League 1995; Yugoslav Cup 1995 (Red Star)

CROSSWORD

Mitre
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Win a top-quality Mitre football

Mitre has kindly donated a top-quality football as first prize for this month's crossword. The first correct entry selected at random after July 12 will win the ball. Five runners-up will each win a *World Soccer Yearbook*.
SEND YOUR ENTRY TO: JUNE CROSSWORD, *World Soccer*, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

ACROSS

1 Mexico's Espanyol forward formerly with Cruz Azul (8)
6 Club side of French internationals Coupet and Carriere (4)
7 Palmeiras and Brazil keeper (6)
9 Mexican with a world record number of caps (6)
10 Fenerbahce and Turkey defender once briefly at Mallorca (5)
11 Saint-Etienne midfielder from Senegal (5)
14 Italian club side of Argentina's Claudio Husain (6)
16 Veteran Cameroon forward most recently with Gueugnon of France (6)
17 Developing Barcelona schemer (4)
18 Outstanding young Real Madrid and Spain keeper (8)

DOWN

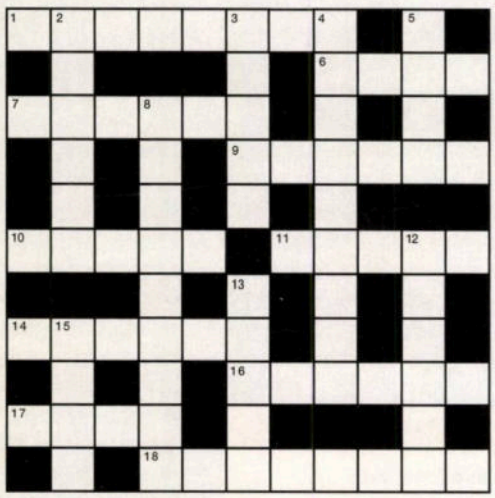
2 Togo keeper recently snapped up by Metz from Africa Sports (6)
3 Much-admired striker in Guy Roux's Auxerre side (5)
4 Paraguay midfielder with Leon in Mexico (9)
5 Stalwart centre-back of DC United and the USA (4)
8 Lecce forward and Slovenian international (9)
12 Mali defender attracting attention at Freiburg (6)
13 Ex-Boavista captain of Malaga and Portugal (5)
15 Former Dutch club of Chelsea and Denmark winger Jesper Gronkjaer (4)

APRIL SOLUTION

Across: 1 Doncic, 3 Abey, 7 Deflandre, 9 Kily, 10 Marcos, 12 Hapoel, 13 Haas, 16 Vennegoor, 17 Zico, 18 Dalian.
Down: 1 Dudek, 2 Iran, 4 Bresciano, 5 Yepes, 6 Edgar, 8 Filipovic, 11 Reyna, 12 Holtz, 14 Sorin, 15 Pena.

APRIL WINNERS

1st prize: Matthew Hynd, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
5 runners-up: Indasone Vissapra, Illinois; Rhys Wolff, Ontario; Aubrey Matupa, New York; Hugo Dinis, Lisbon; Roger Cartlidge, Staffs.



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JUNE (photocopied coupons are acceptable)

Brondby edge out Copenhagen

Jim Holden on a tense finale to the championship

DENMARK

Vital equaliser...Mads Jorgensen

BRONDBY emerged as Superliga champions – but only just after a nerve-racking final week of action.

The crucial fixture came in the penultimate round of matches when they travelled to arch-rivals FC Copenhagen. The sides were level on points, but Brondby knew a draw would be enough to give them a major advantage going into the final game since they had superior goal difference.

FC Copenhagen took the lead in the 35th minute through Bora Zivkovic and appeared set for a famous victory. However, Brondby conjured an astonishing equaliser through Mads Jorgensen in the last minute to earn a draw.

This appeared to assure Brondby of the title since their final game was at home to already-relegated Lyngby, who had been playing out the season with a team comprising amateurs after going bust during the mid-winter break. However, Lyngby threatened one of the greatest shocks in Danish football history when they held out for more than an hour. It took a superb free-kick from Kim Daugaard to ease Brondby's nerves, and the clinching goal of a 2-0 victory did not come until Peter Madsen struck in injury time.

So Brondby, under coach Age Hareide for the last time, took the title on goal difference from FC Copenhagen. FC Midtjylland finished third, the highest place in their short history. There was further celebration for Brondby when Michael Laudrup agreed to replace Hareide as coach. The former international, currently assistant to national team coach Morten Olsen, has signed a two-year deal.

Vejle's relegation was confirmed when the FA controversially overturned an earlier ruling over a game against AB Copenhagen. AB had allegedly fielded an ineligible fourth non-EU player, the Pole Piotr Stokowiecz – and their 4-0 victory was initially ruled invalid, with the three points awarded to Vejle. But an appeals tribunal accepted AB's plea that Stokowiecz was eligible because Poland have an association arrangement with the EU, which means Polish employees in EU countries are to be regarded as EU citizens.

FC Copenhagen also missed out in the Cup Final, losing 2-1 to OB Odense. Soren Berg and Dennis Siim hit OB's goals; Christian Lonstrup scored the reply.

NORWAY

Top clubs forced to sell

THE financial problems besetting the domestic game have forced Lillestrom and Brann Bergen, two of the main potential challengers to champions Rosenborg, to sell key players.

Lillestrom sold Australian Clayton Zane – last season's top scorer – to Anderlecht, while Thorstein Helstad and Raymond Kvisvik both joined Austria Wien from Brann. The deals were arranged just before the Norwegian season got under way in mid-April, though the players did not leave until May.

The transfers have infuriated the fans, who question their respective club's ambitions. But Lillestrom and Brann insist that such sales are vital to their survival.

On the field, Lyn Oslo got off to a

wonderful start, winning six of their first seven games to lead Bodo/Glimt by four points. Rosenborg recovered from losing their first two matches by winning their next two. However, a subsequent shock defeat by lowly Bryne meant the champions were only mid-table, eight points behind the leaders, after seven games.

The national team ended a six game winless run by convincingly beating Japan 3-0 in Oslo in mid-May. Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Steffen Iversen played up front together for the first time, while John Arne Riise revelled in his attacking role. All the goals came in the second half – from Henning Berg, substitute Sigurd Rushfeldt and Solskjaer.

Sigurd Odegaard

SWEDEN

New boys Landskrona lead the way

NEWLY-PROMOTED Landskrona have been the surprise package of the fledgling domestic season, leading the table as the League went into its World Cup break and with by far the best goalscoring record.

Goals record...Jari Litmanen (left)

They began in style with a 6-2 thrashing of potential championship candidates Helsingborgs and went on to record other comfortable wins over Orebro, Elfsborg and Orgryte. Landskrona led the latter by a point after seven games.

It has not been the best of months for Everton's Jesper Blomqvist. He was surprisingly dropped from Sweden's World Cup squad, in spite of showing encouraging form lately. Shortly afterwards, he was told he no longer had a place at his club side Everton.

Pentti Hietanen

FINLAND

Litmanen equals goals record

FINLAND's recent 4-1 win away over Portugal underlined the team's potential as they prepare for the Euro 2004 qualifiers. Although the Portuguese were not at full strength, the Finnish attack looked sharp and dangerous on the break.

Jari Litmanen scored twice taking him level with Ari Hjelm as Finland's all-time top scorer on 21 goals.

In the League, defender Teuvo Palkki, of promoted FC Hameenlinna, is believed to have set a record by returning to play in the top division after an absence of 13 years.

Pentti Hietanen

ICELAND

IA beat Faroese counterparts

REIGNING League champions IA Akranes claimed the first silverware of the new season when beating Faroese champions B36 2-1 in the inaugural Atlantic Cup in Thorshavn.

The game between the champions of both countries is set to become an annual event, with the venue alternating between them.

A few days later, FH won the League Cup – the first domestic trophy of the season – beating Fylkir 6-5 on penalties in the Final after a 2-2 draw.

Rab Christie

● Former Danish international Henrik Larsen has been appointed coach of the **FAROE ISLANDS**. The Euro 92 winner, who quit Danish Second Division side Olstykke to take up the post, has agreed a two-year deal. Larsen succeeds compatriot Allan Simonsen, who resigned last autumn after eight years in charge to take over Luxembourg's national team.

Pro-file Peter Lovenkrands

Danish big-match performer committed to Rangers' cause

THERE'S no question that Danish attacker Peter Lovenkrands owes his place in his country's World Cup squad to his liking for the important occasion.

Lovenkrands suffered his share of injuries, especially to a hamstring, following his £1.5 million move from AB Copenhagen to Rangers in summer 2000. But since regaining full fitness early this year, he has invariably proved himself the main man for the big match.

Five of his seven goals for Rangers this season have come against Old Firm rivals Celtic, including two in his club's 3-2 Scottish Cup Final win. In the UEFA Cup, his speed and skill against Dinamo Moscow and Feyenoord made his markers' heads spin, and he gave another fine performance on his debut for Denmark in February, a 1-0 victory over Saudi Arabia in Riyadh.

Although Lovenkrands is not likely to start in the World Cup, his talents render him a potentially very important substitute option. His extreme pace on the flank would be a serious problem for defenders whose stamina was already sapped by the heat and humidity, and he can also provide cover as a central striker or an attacking midfielder.

"At the start of the season I didn't think I had a chance of going to the World Cup," admits the 22-year-old, who happily postponed a planned family holiday to Lanzarote in order to go to Japan and South Korea. "My first priority was to have a good run in the Rangers first team and do well. But when I managed it, I began to believe there was a possibility of making the Denmark squad. Thankfully, national coach Morten Olsen gave me my chance."

Lately, Lovenkrands has frequently been mentioned in the same breath as ex-Denmark and Rangers great Brian Laudrup. However, it is not a comparison that particularly pleases the youngster. "Laudrup was a brilliant player," says Lovenkrands. "But I don't want to be the 'new Laudrup'. I can only be myself. I have to do it my way."

That includes staying loyal to Rangers. Despite interest from Internazionale, Real Madrid and Barcelona, Lovenkrands insists he is staying at Ibrox. "Next season we aim to take the League title back from Celtic, and I'm very passionate about achieving that," he says. "If I moved to Italy or Spain, I would probably end up on the bench. Maybe there would be more money, but it's not important when you're not playing."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Rangers (Sco)
Country Denmark
Born January 29, 1980, in Horsholm
Previous club AB Copenhagen
International debut February 2002, v Saudi Arabia
International caps 3 (0 goals)
Honours Scottish Cup 2002; Scottish League Cup 2002

Terim returns to champions Gala

The 2000 UEFA Cup-winning coach takes the helm again, writes Hasan Cemali

TURKEY

GALATASARAY won their last six games without conceding a goal to clinch their 15th League title. However, within days of winning the championship, they had replaced Romanian coach Mircea Lucescu with former boss Fatih Terim.

Lucescu resigned in the midst of persistent rumours that Terim, who was at the helm when Galatasaray won the 2000 UEFA Cup, was being sounded out to take over the Istanbul side once again.

Terim, sacked by Milan in November, was duly handed a four-year contract. At a press conference to mark his return, he announced that he would make Milan and Turkey midfielder Umit Davala his first signing, on a one-year loan.

Lucescu, in turn, took over at Besiktas after new chairman Hasan Arat said German coach Christoph Daum had no future at the club. Daum now takes charge of Koln, recently relegated from the Bundesliga. His compatriot Hans-Peter Briegel has also left his post, at Trabzonspor, and been replaced by Samet Aybaba.

Galatasaray qualified directly for the Champions League, with Fenerbahce, who finished three points behind in second place, going into the qualifying rounds. Besiktas, who took third spot, will compete in the UEFA Cup next season, along with Ankaragucu (fourth), Denizlispor (fifth) and Kocaelispor, 4-0 victors over Besiktas in the Cup Final.

Ilhan Mansiz of Besiktas and Arif Erdem of Gala shared the golden boot with 21 goals each. Rizespor, Antalyaspor and Yozgatspor were relegated, with Altay, Adanaspor and Elazigspor promoted.

Back to work...Gala have handed Terim a four-year deal

Hitching a ride...Alexios Alexandris leaps to celebrate an Olympiakos goal

GREECE

Olympiakos stretch it to six

OLYMPIAKOS captured their sixth consecutive championship when an Alexios Alexandris hat-trick helped them to a convincing 5-1 victory at Aris Salonika on the season's final day.

Closest challengers AEK Athens also won easily – crushing PAOK Salonika 6-2 at home – to finish level on points but Olympiakos were crowned champions by virtue of their better head-to-head record against their rivals during the season.

AEK gained some revenge by denying Olympiakos the Double with a 2-1 victory in the Cup Final. Yugoslav substitute Ilija Ivic scored the winner in the 83rd minute having been on the field for only 60 seconds.

Olympiakos' cause was not helped when they lost Christian Karembeu two minutes before half-time with a ripped leg muscle, which put the France midfielder out of the World Cup.

AEK took the lead in the 52nd minute when Sotiris Konstantinidis followed up after Vassilis Tsartas had a penalty saved. Giovanni equalised in the 70th minute, heading in a cross from Stelios Giannakopoulos but the Brazilian was sent off five minutes later for kicking Konstantinidis.

AEK's victory was not enough to alter the decision of Portuguese coach Fernando Santos to resign and move to third-placed Panathinaikos, where he will replace Uruguayan Sergio Markarian. Santos, who joined AEK last summer, had problems with the club's board throughout the season and quit once before, in January, before being persuaded by fans to change his mind.

AEK promptly rehired their 53-year-old Yugoslavia-born former player and coach Dusan Bayevic, who quit League Cup winners PAOK citing problems with the management methods of president George Batatoudis. Bayevic was a popular choice with AEK and their fans. His first spell there lasted 12 years before he left in 1996. President Makis Psomiadis said: "He is back with the club he loved and one that loved him as no other."

Markarian stepped down at Panathinaikos saying he felt "tired" and needed five to six months of rest before considering another coaching job. He joined Panathinaikos at the turn of the year having been sacked as national coach of Paraguay last November.

Olympiakos and AEK qualified for next season's Champions League, with Panathinaikos, PAOK, Xanthi and Iraklis going into the UEFA Cup.

Alexandris ended as the League's top scorer for the second season running, his total of 19 goals one short of last season's tally.

Ethnikos Asteras were relegated, while three teams were promoted – Second Division champions Giannina, Kallithea Athens and Proodeftiki Piraeus – because the top division is expanding to 16 teams from 14.

Lou Economopoulos

YUGOSLAVIA

Partizan triumph with games to spare

PARTIZAN secured their 17th League title with three matches to spare when drawing 3-3 at home to fellow Belgrade side OFK. The game came a day after closest challengers Red Star lost 1-0 at Rudar Plevlja, leaving them trailing Partizan by nine points.

Partizan, who last won the title three years ago, ended Red Star's fading hopes of a hat-trick of championships, although Red Star salvaged some pride by beating Partizan 3-0 away in the big Belgrade derby.

Controversial choice...Filip Tapalovic

On the national team front, caretaker coach Dejan Savicevic is likely to stay in charge for the Euro 2004 qualifying campaign. The situation became clearer when Dusan Bayevic, the leading candidate to take the post permanently, rejoined AEK Athens having quit PAOK Salonika.

In recent friendlies, Yugoslavia beat Lithuania 4-1 at home then lost 1-0 to Ecuador in New Jersey. They finished third in the four-team LG Cup in Moscow, losing 2-0 to Ukraine but then beating Russia 6-5 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

Vladimir Novak

SLOVENIA

Maribor hold off Primorje

MARIBOR saw off the challenge of surprise title pretenders Primorje, beating them 3-0 on the final day of the season to lift the championship for the sixth successive year.

However, Maribor can expect a much tougher fight from Olimpija next season. The Ljubljana club, who finished a disappointing fifth, have received a major cash injection from Jurij Solmajer, one of Slovenia's richest men. Solmajer, who owns a chain of electronics retail shops, made his presence felt immediately by appointing former playing great Branko Oblak as coach. Oblak has signed a three-year deal and is expected to bring in some fresh talent. Among the names mentioned to date are international midfielder Djoni Novak and Croatia veteran Robert Prosinecki.

In the Cup Final, HIT Gorica beat Second Division Aluminij of Kidricevo 6-1 on aggregate. Triglav and Domzale were relegated from the top division.

Zdravko Reic

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Tapalovic snatched by Croatia

NATIONAL coach Blaz Sliskovic has hit out at Croatia's use of a player that he intended to include in the Bosnian team. Croatia coach Mirko Jozic played 1860 Munich defender Filip Tapalovic in the 2-0 friendly win over Hungary in Pecs in early May. But while Tapalovic's nationality is Croatian, he was born within the bounds of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Sliskovic says he intended to use him in future matches.

"Jozic did it just to prevent Tapalovic from playing for our team, but I strongly believe he won't play again for Croatia, who have a number of quality players in that position," said Sliskovic.

Meanwhile, the coach has fallen out with the federation over his salary package, despite being offered more than double that of his predecessor, Drago Smajlovic.

Zdravko Reic

Pro-file Hasan Salihamidzic

Versatile Bosnian proving irreplaceable at Bayern Munich

WHAT makes Hasan Salihamidzic such a favourite at Bayern Munich? The coaching staff would no doubt point to his consistency and extraordinary versatility – his ability to switch effortlessly from wing-back to central midfield, from full-back to winger or striker.

But there is a more important factor behind the Bosnian's immense popularity – the fire in his belly. Whoever the opponents, whatever the competition, Salihamidzic's ferocious will to win is there for all to see. He also serves as Bayern's chief rabble-rouser, constantly urging his team-mates to greater efforts.

"Hasan is so important to us," says Bayern coach Ottmar Hitzfeld. "His determination and enthusiasm have often proved vital in helping us turn difficult situations around. It was a big blow when he was forced out for four months this season after a knee operation. We simply could not replace him."

On returning to the first team in late March, Salihamidzic immediately supplied a much-needed injection of intensity. The *Munchner* were losing 1-0 at home to Real Madrid in a Champions League quarter-final first leg when the Bosnian came off the bench with less than 30 minutes left. It was he who sparked the comeback, unsettling the Real defence with his right-flank surges and provided the platform for the two late goals that gave his team victory.

However, Bayern could have done without his ill-advised post-match comments. "Real were nice to watch," said Salihamidzic, who joined Bayern four years ago from Hamburg. "A back-heel here, a trick there. But it was not effective, and when we increased the pressure they became afraid."

How he would come to regret those remarks. The Real stars he had labelled showboaters had all the motivation they needed for the second leg and moved into the semis courtesy of a 2-0 win.

To make matters worse for Salihamidzic, his nose was broken by a stray Roberto Carlos elbow and he was sent off for a late challenge on Santiago Solari.

But the Bosnian is too driven a character to resign himself to disappointment. "I was sent to live with an uncle in Hamburg when war broke out in Bosnia, and even at 15 I was so sure I was going to be a professional footballer," he says. "When I set my heart on something I go full speed for it."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Bayern Munich (Ger)
Country Bosnia-Herzegovina
Born January 1, 1977, in Jablanica
Previous clubs Turbina Jablinca, Velez Mostar, Hamburg (Ger)
International debut September 1996, v Greece
International caps 24 (4 goals)
Honours Champions League 2001; German League 1999, 2000, 2001; German Cup 2000

Let us spray...Zagreb players and staff break out the bubbly to celebrate their first title

Zagreb end 99-year wait

CROATIA

ZAGREB, for so long the poor relations of capital rivals Dinamo and Split club Hajduk, finally won the championship a year short of their centenary. Indeed, the League title was their first major silverware of any kind since their formation in 1903.

Zagreb were deserving winners, having played the best football throughout the season and managed to hold off a late surge from Hajduk. They also had the player of the season within their ranks – League top scorer Ivica Olic, who finished with 21 goals.

The team's triumph ended a decade of domination by the Big Two, who had won all the previous 10 championships (Dinamo six, Hajduk four) since independence.

However, the new champions will play under a different coach next season following the resignation of Zlatko Kranjcar. Ivan Katalinic, in charge of Rijeka last season, is the new man at the helm.

There have already been a number of other coaching changes since the end of the season. Slaven Bilic stepped down at Hajduk, to be replaced by former coach Zoran Vulic; and ex-national team boss Miroslav Blazevic has succeeded Marijan Vlak at Dinamo. Blazevic, who recently returned to Croatia to take charge of Osijek, is now in his fourth spell in charge at Dinamo. Vlak had succeeded Ilija Loncarevic only in April.

The contraction of the top division for next season from 16 clubs to 12 meant that four clubs were automatically relegated – Hrvatski dragovoljac, Cakovec, Marsonia and TSK. Sibenik and Kamen Ingrad survived in the top flight after beating the two promotion candidates – Vukovar 91 and Istra Pula – in play-offs.

Zdravko Reic

ALBANIA

Demollari dumped after Andorra shock

NATIONAL coach Sulejman Demollari was fired along with the entire coaching staff following the shock 2-0 friendly defeat away to Andorra in April. The loss to the tiny principality – who had won only one previous game in their history – prompted Albanian FA chairman Armando Duka to head straight for the dressing-room after the game, when he summarily dismissed the coaching team.

Demollari, 37, replaced Mehdin Zhega last July midway through a disappointing World Cup qualifying campaign. However, recent friendly results, which included a 4-0 defeat by Mexico and a 0-0 draw with Luxembourg, hardly suggested he had made any significant improvement to the team's performances.

Michael Bowesfield

MACEDONIA

Ilievski gains early win

NEW national coach Nikola Ilievski has made a promising start in his bid to turn the team's fortunes around. He won his second game in charge – 1-0 over Finland in Prilep in April – and so ended the team's 18-month run without a victory. A goal from Goran Stavrevski was enough to see off the Scandinavians.

Ilievski had made his intentions crystal clear when he named his squad for his first match as boss – a 4-4 draw away to Bosnia-Herzegovina at the end of March. The coach included all the players who had boycotted call-ups by previous incumbent Gjore Jovanovski, as well as a number of new faces.

The move appears to have paid off, with the team clearly enjoying a much better spirit.

Michel Stojmanovski

MALTA

Hibernians shake off seven-year itch

HIBERNIANS are back at the top of Maltese football after winning the Premier League for the first time in seven years.

Robert Gatt's side made sure of the title with a 2-0 win over Floriana in their penultimate fixture. Both goals came from Adrian Mifsud, who finished with 27. Even that impressive tally was eclipsed by Sliema Wanderers' Danilo Doncic. The Yugoslav equalled the League record of 32 goals, which he himself set while at Valletta in 1996-97.

Sliema finished runners-up, Birkirkara third and last season's all-conquering Valletta fourth.

They will be joined by Marsaxlokk and Mosta in the top flight next season. Naxxar Lions and Lija Athletic were relegated.

Domenico Aquilina

Title winner...Adrian Mifsud

Nation mourns Lobanovskyi

Oleg Zadernovsky on the death of Dynamo's revered coach

Last salute...crowds gather to pay their respects as Lobanovskyi's coffin lies in state at Dynamo's ground

UKRAINE

VALERII LOBANOVSKYI, the renowned coach of Kyiv Dynamo, has died at 63, having failed to regain consciousness after emergency brain surgery.

Lobanovskyi, who until recently was also Ukraine's national team coach, suffered a stroke after Dynamo's 3-1 League win away to Metalurh Zaporizhya on May 7. He died six days later after suffering repeated brain haemorrhages.

Lobanovskyi won numerous honours with Dynamo, including the Cup-winners Cup twice, and his standing in the country was such that he was accorded a state funeral. President Leonid Kuchma also bestowed a posthumous Hero of Ukraine award on the coach.

His coffin was placed on the pitch at Dynamo's stadium – now to bear his name – allowing more than 100,000 citizens, dignitaries and prominent figures from Ukrainian football to pay their last respects before his burial in Kyiv's Baikovo cemetery.

President Kuchma led the tributes, saying: "Valerii Lobanovskyi made Ukrainian football famous throughout the whole world."

His words were echoed by Ukraine football federation president Grygoriy Surkis, who added: "Lobanovskyi was a legend."

There were also many tributes from players who had been part of the coach's success.

"It's a great tragedy for our game. Everything I achieved in football I owed to Lobanovskyi," said Dynamo great Igor Belanov. His former club-mate Alexander Zavarov added: "I gave the name of Valerii to my son in honour of Lobanovskyi. I'm shocked by his death."

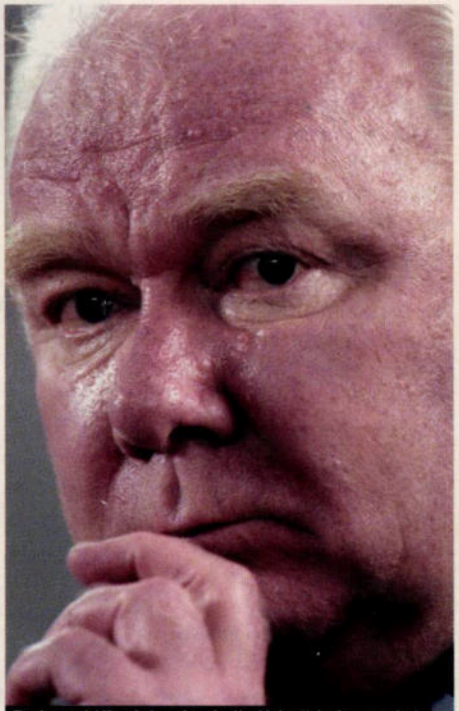
Lobanovskyi's passing is a terrible blow to Dynamo since he was a figure that stands comparison with Matt Busby of Manchester United and Santiago Bernabeu of Real Madrid. He served the Kyiv side for more than 40 years, helping them to numerous trophies at home and in Europe.

As a player he was a key member of the Dynamo side that won the first full USSR League title in 1961. As a coach he led the club to eight USSR titles, six USSR Cups, two Cup-winners Cups – in 1975 and 1986 – and a UEFA Super Cup. Later, he added five Ukrainian League titles and three Ukrainian Cups.

Lobanovskyi also was in charge of the USSR national team at the 1986 World Cup and took them to the runners-up spot at Euro 88. Latterly, he combined his duties at Dynamo with those of the Ukraine national side, though he stepped down after failing to guide the team to this year's World Cup.

Lobanovskyi had suffered health problems ever since his return to Ukraine in 1996 from a spell working in the United Arab Emirates. On many occasions he was unable to travel, even to important away matches, and instead passed on his instructions by mobile phone to his assistants Anatoliy Demyanenko and Olexiy Mikhailichenko.

Demyanenko said: "I worked with Lobanovskyi since 1979. He was like a father to me."



Father of Ukrainian football...Valerii Lobanovskyi

RUSSIA

Spartak hit by Lokomotiv

LAST year's League runners-up Lokomotiv Moscow were leading the title race as the championship went into its World Cup break. They were four points ahead of CSKA Moscow, having played a game more, and nine clear of title holders Moscow Spartak.

Oleg Romantsev's side have been struggling so far in their attempts to win what would be a seventh straight championship. Many attribute Spartak's troubles to the fact that Romantsev, who combines his post with that of being Russia manager, has had to concentrate on national team affairs in recent weeks.

CSKA's big-spending owner Yevgeni Giner now has European ambitions after witnessing his side's 2-0 victory over Zenit St Petersburg in the Cup Final.

Dinamo Moscow won the last three games before the break under the leadership of new coach Victor Prokopenko. The former Shakhtar Donetsk boss was brought in following the dismissal of Alexander Novikov after a run of poor results.

Anzhi were also looking for a new coach after Leonid Tkachenko resigned to replace Alexander Koreshkov at Sokol.

Victor Gusev

Tirol title hat-trick, Matthaus Rapid exit

Nick Bidwell on a predictable end to the season

AUSTRIA

AS EXPECTED, FC Tirol completed a hat-trick of League titles, finishing 10 points ahead of Sturm Graz. There was also little surprise when former German international Lothar Matthaus was fired as coach of Rapid Wien, who could finish only eighth, after just eight months in charge.

Tirol's championship success came despite their ongoing debt crisis. The Innsbruck club are £12 million in the red and will have to offload a number of their stars in the close season.

However, the champions did at least receive some good tidings when the League renewed their licence to operate in the top flight.

The decision did not meet with the approval of relegated Admira Wacker, who argued that the League ordered them to clear their debts immediately last summer, forcing them to sell off all their best players before a ball was kicked.

Admira claimed Tirol received preferential treatment and threatened legal action.

Matthaus' departure from his first foray into coaching seemed inevitable after Rapid finished third from bottom, their worst League finish. Former national team boss and ex-Rapid player Josef Hickersberger is the new man in charge.

League runners-up Sturm also lost out in the Cup Final, going down 3-2 to city rivals Grazer AK.

Out in the cold...Lothar Matthaus' first attempt at coaching ended in ignominy

World Cup reward...Maciej Murawski

POLAND

Legia benefit from standing by their man

LEGIA WARSAW saw off the challenge of Wisla Krakow to win the League for the first time since 1995, an outcome that represented a personal triumph for club chairman Leszek Miklas and Serb coach Dragomir Okuka.

The jobs of both men came under great pressure when Legia lost their first two games of the season. But Miklas stood by his coach, and Legia lost only one more game on their way to taking the title by a point.

The team's style clearly impressed national coach Jerzy Engel, who made defensive midfielder Maciej Murawski and top scorer Cezary Kucharski late inclusions in his World Cup party.

Wisla gained some consolation for losing out in the League by beating third-placed Amica Wronki 8-2 on aggregate in the Cup Final.

Slask Wroclaw and Stomil Olsztyn went down automatically, and third-from-bottom RKS Radomsko were also demoted after losing a play-off with Second Division new boys Garbarnia Szczakowianka Jaworzno. Garbarnia will be joined in the top flight by Division Two champions Lech Poznan and runners-up Orlen Plock.

KSZO Ostrowiec, who finished fourth from last in the top flight, stayed up by beating lower level Gornik Leczna 3-1 on aggregate.

Dariusz Kurowski

CZECH REPUBLIC

Wasteful Liberec gifted the title

SLOVAN LIBEREC had Slavia Prague to thank for securing their first League title after throwing away the chance to win it on their own terms.

After taking only one point from their two previous games, Liberec knew only a win at Bohemians would guarantee them the championship. However, once again their form deserted them, and they lost 2-1.

Thankfully for the leaders, closest rivals Viktoria Zizkov were denied the point that would have brought them the title when Slavia's Pavel Kuka scored the only goal six minutes from time. Zizkov coach Zdenek Scasny then quit to join OFI Crete.

Despite their late jitters, Liberec enjoyed a marvellous season, during which they also reached the UEFA Cup quarter-finals. Coach Ladislav Skorpil forged a team full of self-belief, and in Jiri Stajner and Jan Nezmar (see profile, opposite) had the League's top two scorers.

Sparta Prague's attempt to retain the title took a dive after coach Jaroslav Hrebik was sacked following a 2-0 defeat at Jablonec seven games from the end. They finished without any trophies after losing 2-1 to Slavia in the Cup Final. Sparta moved to improve their standing next season by signing national team midfielder Karel Poborsky from Lazio and re-hiring Banik Ostrava coach Jozef Jarabinsky, who led Sparta to the 1990 and 1993 titles during a previous spell in charge.

Opava and Drnovice went down, the latter having finished the season using a team of reserves after selling nine regulars for financial reasons.

Roy Kitson

SLOVAKIA

Zilina pulling away

MSK ZILINA looked cast-iron certainties to win their first championship as none of the other contenders could find any sort of consistent form.

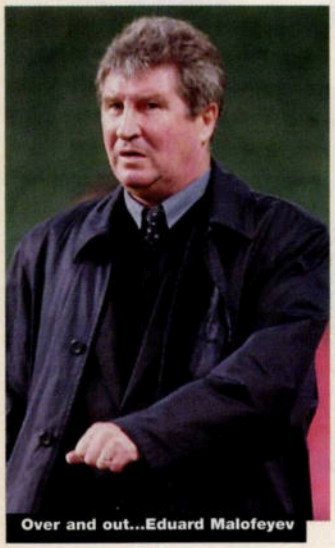
Jan Svehlik, Slovan Bratislava's interim coach, resigned after several poor results, and was replaced by Miroslav Svoboda, dismissed by the club just after the winter break.

Spartak Trnava, relegated at the end of last season, bounced straight back by winning the Second Division with several games to spare.

Koba Senec became the first Second Division team to lift the Slovak Cup when defeating Matador Puchov 4-2 on penalties after a 1-1 draw.

The national side's stock rose when they secured a 1-1 draw in Belgium in April, thanks to a goal from Vladimir Janocko.

Roy Kitson



Over and out...Eduard Malofeyev

BELARUS

Malofeyev quits Dinamo Minsk

EDUARD MALOFEYEV quit as coach of Dinamo Minsk only two games into the new season after falling out with club president Yuri Chizh.

Malofeyev, also national team coach, claimed Chizh constantly interfered during training sessions. In turn, the president said he did not want Malofeyev to continue combining his club duties with the Belarus job. Andrey Zygmantovich, previously on the Dinamo administrative staff, has taken over the coaching reins.

Oleg Zadernovsky

AZERBAIJAN

League frozen by boycott

THE national championship has been paralysed since the middle of April because of a nine-club boycott over alleged refereeing bias and FA corruption.

The affair was sparked by events during a championship play-off game between Shafa and Hazar Universiteti. The referee had signalled there would be five minutes' injury time at the end of the match with the scores level at 0-0. However, Shafa's Tarlan Akhmedov scored the winner from the penalty spot in the 97th minute, after which the official immediately ended the match.

Hazar appealed to the FA, which initially decided that the match should be replayed but then confirmed Shafa's win. Hazar responded by declaring they would boycott League and Cup matches. They claim FA president Fuad Musayev looks favourably on Shafa because the club was formed by the association a few years ago and the FA general secretary, Chingiz Ismailov, is also president of Shafa.

The situation worsened when eight other top-level clubs joined the boycott.

Vladimir Kalinkovich

MOLDOVA

Easy for Serif

SERIF TIRASPOL eased to the League title, their second in a row, going undefeated through the campaign and clinching the trophy with six matches to spare.

Serif's success came despite having changed coach three times during the season. Mihai Stoichita, who steered Steaua Bucharest to the 1998 Romanian title, saw Serif through, having joined them in the spring.

Miron Goihman

Pro-file Jan Nezmar

Striking force behind Liberec's domestic and Euro success

SLOVAN LIBEREC striker Jan Nezmar has certainly emerged from the shadows this term. At the start of the Czech League season, Nezmar was far from sure of a place in the starting line-up. In the 2000-01 campaign, his first at the club since signing from Opava, he managed seven goals but his form fluctuated wildly. Coach Ladislav Skorpil had little alternative but to regard Ghanaian international Baffour Gyan and Jiri Stajner as his first-choice attacking duo.

However, with Gyan out of sorts as the new season got under way, Nezmar was brought in to replace him. The young hopeful quickly played his way into the coach's favours, scoring a well-taken goal in his first game, a 2-0 win over Chmel Blsany, and linking impressively with Stajner and playmaker Vaclav Kolousek.

Intelligent of movement, brave and sharp, Nezmar went on to play a pivotal role in Liberec's inaugural League title success. Not only did he score 15 times, but many of them came at vital moments. Take his great work in the championship run-in: the stoppage-time winner against Opava, the 90th-minute goal that beat title challengers Viktoria Zizkov at home, and the two goals in the last 15 minutes that gave Liberec a 3-1 win at Slavia Prague.

"Some say we only won the title by default," says Nezmar, "and that Viktoria Zizkov would have won the championship if they had not lost to a late Slavia goal on the final day of the season. Well, that doesn't give us the credit we deserve.

"We did have a couple of poor spells – there was the six-match run without a win in the autumn, and we failed to win any of our last three games. But apart from that, we played outstandingly. We beat all the top teams – Sparta and Slavia home and away, and Zizkov at home. We did not steal the title. It was just reward for our determination, discipline and great team spirit."

Nezmar also proved hard to contain in European competition. He scored six goals as Liberec powered past Slovan Bratislava, Celta Vigo, Mallorca and Lyon en route to an unexpected place in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals. The run put Nezmar in the shop window, and there is talk that a Bundesliga club will make him an offer he cannot refuse. The striker, tipped to win his first Czech Republic cap next season, says: "I've proved I can do well at a very high level and I can't pretend I'm not tempted by a move to Germany."

Nick Bidwell

Fact file

Club Slovan Liberec
Country Czech Republic
Born July 5, 1977, in Opava
Previous clubs TJ Druz ba Hlavnica, Dolni Benes, SFC Opava
Honours Czech League 2002

Play your cards right

A novel way of deciding drawn games has proved a surprise success, writes Brian Homewood

Full house...Corinthians celebrate after winning the Rio-Sao Paulo tournament, in which red and yellow cards played a vital and innovative part

BRAZIL

BRAZILIAN football appears to have stumbled across a viable alternative to the penalty shoot-out as a way of settling drawn games.

In an unprecedented move in the sport's history, organisers of the Rio-Sao Paulo tournament decided deadlocks could be broken by the number of yellow and red cards shown to each team. The rule came into play for the first time in the Sao Paulo-Palmeiras semi-final, won by the former after a 3-3 aggregate draw. No one was sent off but Sao Paulo picked up only four yellow cards over the two games to Palmeiras' seven.

"My team played well, we looked to play football, but qualification was decided by the cards," said Palmeiras coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo. "What can we do? I don't think the card criterion is correct but I can't complain because the rules have been made."

Luxemburgo was not the only unhappy one. Initially, the rule was greeted as yet another extravagant invention by Brazil's soccer directors. A sceptical media bracketed the innovation alongside other gems such as the competition in which 'all teams qualify automatically for the second round' or 'the lowest-placed team that have not won the championship before will be relegated'. Both have been used in Brazil in the past.

The advantages of the card scheme became evident, however, during the Final between Sao Paulo and Corinthians. After the first leg ended 3-2 to Corinthians on goals, 0-0 on red cards and 2-2 on yellows, the second leg took several twists. Sao Paulo took the initiative when they scored in the first minute and their opponents

picked up two yellows in the first half hour. Within five minutes, however, Corinthians were level on aggregate after two opponents were booked.

The second half was played on a knife-edge until the 78th minute, when Corinthians equalised. This left Sao Paulo needing to score and hope that a Corinthians player got booked to go back ahead. In the event, there were no more cards, no more goals and Corinthians won.

The benefits of the rule were numerous: only 33 fouls were committed compared to the Brazilian average of around 60 or 70 per match; and the threat of a potentially decisive yellow card also reduced diving, time-wasting and the other assorted gamesmanship that has ruined Brazilian football.

Moreover, referee Paulo Cesar Oliveira, aware that he would be crucified for failing to show a yellow card, clamped down on violent play from the start rather than waiting for the second half – a common fault in Brazilian referees.

Corinthians' victory brought 1994 World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira his first domestic trophy since 1984, when he led Fluminense to the national championship. Parreira, who took over in January, led a stunning transition at a club that fell into disarray last year under the designer-suited Luxemburgo, another former national team coach.

Goalkeeper Dida was back to his best after playing reserve team football and being involved in the false passport scandal while at Milan. Midfielder Vampeta also recaptured his top form and was rewarded with a last-minute call-up for the World Cup.

The Rio-Sao Paulo tournament has replaced the state championships as the main attraction during the first half of the season.

Cruzeiro won the other major regional tournament, the Copa Sul-Minas, which features clubs from the three southern states plus the central state of Minas Gerais. Argentina's Juan Pablo Sorin scored the only goal of the second leg to secure a 3-1 aggregate victory over Atletico Paranaense. Yellow cards were not used as a tie-breaker in this competition and the second leg produced 63 fouls, nearly twice as many as the Corinthians-Sao Paulo game.

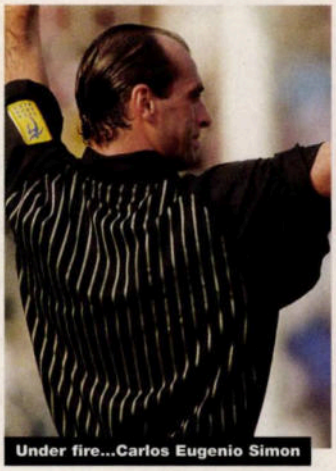
Corinthians also reached the Final of the Copa Brasil, the nationwide knockout cup, and beat Brasiliense 2-1 in a first leg marked by controversial refereeing from Carlos Eugenio Simon, Brazil's official at the World Cup.

Brasiliense, who as their name suggests are from the nation's capital, Brasilia, claimed Corinthians' second goal should have been disallowed for a foul and that they should have had a penalty 10 minutes from the end.

Simon was then controversially suspended by the CBF's refereeing commission president Edson Resende, who comes from...Brasilia.

This brought a furious protest from former Brazilian World Cup referee Jose Roberto Wright, who said: "Simon's punishment was a cowardly and unacceptable act on the part of a person who increasingly shows he is not equipped to chair the national refereeing commission.

"You can't take such a radical attitude because of the first mistake. Otherwise, very soon all referees will be suspended, because mistakes happen in every game."


Under fire...Carlos Eugenio Simon

But Brasiliense president Luiz Estevao was unmoved and launched a blistering attack on Simon, whom he described as a thief.

Estevao is a former senator who was kicked out of office for alleged misuse of public funds. The irony was not lost on the Brazilian media.

Round-up

Antelo pays heavy price

Targeted...Hernan Dario Gomez

BOLIVIA: Victor Hugo Antelo, the world record League goalscorer, has been sacked as coach of Oriente Petrolero. Antelo led Oriente to last year's title in his first season in charge but was dismissed as they lay only fourth in this year's opening championship. Bolivar were runaway leaders after 12 games.

CHILE: Former Colo Colo president Peter Dragicevic has been accused of defrauding the taxman, the club's creditors and the heavily-indebted club itself.

COLOMBIA: Opening championship leaders Atletico Nacional played their May derby with Medellin rivals Independiente behind closed doors after their February clash ended in violence. The most recent tie ended 1-1.

Millonarios have fallen on hard times both on and off the field. The Bogota club, who have won the championship a record 13 times, went 621 minutes without scoring recently, and several players have not been paid.

Faustino Asprilla, now 32 and one of many veteran players who have returned to Colombia, was sent off on his Nacional debut following his move from Atlante in Mexico. Among the other arrivals are Leonel Alvarez, 37, to Quindio, Adolfo Valencia, 34 (Santa Fe), Ivan Valenciano, 30 (Millonarios), and Herman Gaviria, 33, and Orlando Maturano, 36 (both Bucaramanga).

ECUADOR: Joselo Rodriguez, the former president of Second Division club Santa Rita, has been assassinated together with his wife and son. Rodriguez spent six months in jail recently for his part in the shooting of national team coach Hernan Dario Gomez last May. Gomez was shot in the leg after he omitted a Santa Rita player from a national Under-20 squad. The player, Dalo Bucaram, is the son of former Ecuadorean state president Abdala Bucaram, a business partner of Rodriguez.

PARAGUAY: Unheralded Libertad won their first League title since 1974 when beating Cerro Porteno 3-1 on aggregate in the opening championship Final.

PERU: Sporting Cristal, the country's richest club, sacked five players after failing to win a game in the Libertadores Cup.

Johan Sotil, 18-year-old son of former Peruvian international Hugo and godson of Johan Cruyff, made a striking First Division debut for Universitario. He won a penalty and scored in the 2-1 win over Coopsol.

VENEZUELA: Nacional Tachira won the closing championship to set up a clash with opening championship winners Estudiantes for the overall title. The latter are coached by Santiago Escobar, brother of murdered Colombian international Andres.

Eric Weil

River rise back to the top

Eric Weil on how the Buenos Aires club regained domestic superiority

ARGENTINA

RIVER PLATE won the closing championship with one match to spare, making Ramon Diaz, the former international striker, the most successful coach in the club's history with eight major trophies. Despite this, Diaz has left the club following a row with the board over his salary. The top division's 20 clubs made no fewer than 26 changes of coach this season.

River, who have for many years been forced to sell their best players abroad for financial reasons, introduced a number of outstanding players from their youth ranks during the latest campaign. One of them, 18-year-old Fernando Cavenaghi, finished the League's top marksman with 15 goals. His scoring prowess, together with that of international Ariel Ortega, meant the club had no real need for recent forward-line purchases Juan Esnaider and Uruguayan Daniel Fonseca. Nor did they miss last year's leading scorer Martin Cardetti, with whom they fell out after failing to agree contract terms.

River's dominance in the League meant that they were also able to overcome the FA's poor fixture scheduling, which meant midfielder Claudio Husain and Ortega had to leave on national team duty with two games to go. They were the only two home-based players called up for Argentina's World Cup preparations.

"River are deserved champions for their consistency and their solidity, both individually and as a team," said former River Plate midfielder Reinaldo Merlo, coach of opening tournament winners Racing Club. Americo Gallego, another former River player now coaching Independiente, concurred, saying: "River tried to play attacking soccer and they had the best players for the task." There was further praise from Nestor Craviotto (Estudiantes de La Plata): "They changed their traditional philosophy, defended with three, and really it turned out very well," and former national coach Cesar Menotti (Rosario Central): "Although the standard was low in this championship, River gained the advantage by knowing how to mix youth with experience."

River and Racing Club qualify for next year's Libertadores Cup as opening and closing champions, together with the two next most successful clubs, based on total points gained over the two campaigns – Boca Juniors, who won their last seven closing games to finish third, and closing runners-up Gimnasia y Esgrima La Plata. Argentinos Juniors and Belgrano Cordoba were relegated automatically.

Argentina's economic problems have continued to affect domestic soccer. Frequently clubs have not sent their reserve teams to away games to save money, and the FA has stopped sending a fourth official to matches. Better news is that while the peso has been devalued and a law has converted all local dollar debts into pesos, clubs with big peso debts will be allowed to improve their finances greatly by selling players abroad for dollars.

Hooliganism showed no sign of abating during the closing campaign, with several matches forced to be suspended. At the same time, the authorities have been frustrated by the fact that a law to stiffen prison sentences for hooligans has been bogged down in Congress for the past three months. However, a 2am house raid by Buenos Aires provincial police resulted in the arrest and eventual imprisonment of 37 members of the notorious Racing Club gang. A few weeks earlier, hooligans from that club attacked a gang from Independiente, which resulted in one death.

The police were also called in after the 17-year-old brother of Boca Juniors star Juan Roman Riquelme was kidnapped. Christian Riquelme, who plays for the junior team of Second Division Platense, was later released on payment of a reported £120,000, but the incident has prompted his brother to consider leaving Argentina because of safety fears. The Boca playmaker has previously rejected a move to Europe because of his reluctance to leave his home country.

Another crime victim was Antonio Rattin, the former national team captain, who was held up recently and robbed of cheques, money and a ring bearing Boca Juniors' colours, presented to him for his long service to the club. "Money comes and goes, but the ring had an emotional value which can't be estimated in monetary terms," he said.

Ironically, Rattin, now a Member of Parliament, has been one of the strongest advocates of stiffer sentences for criminals, especially football hooligans.

Future bright...the goals of former youth team forward Fernando Cavenaghi fired River Plate to the championship

We are the champions...Nottingham Forest display the Dallas Cup's Under-19 Super Group trophy

DALLAS CUP

Forest knock on wood

Paul Gardner on a successful tournament – despite the withdrawals and the weather

TRIUMPH over adversity turned out to be the theme of the 2002 Dallas Cup. The organisers quickly discovered, following the September 11 terrorist attacks on the USA, that many teams were not keen to travel by air. That, plus the dismal state of the major South American economies, meant an absence of teams from Argentina and Brazil. Mexico, usually the largest foreign contingent, entered only one team in the Under-19 age group.

Nevertheless, a highly respectable field of quality teams was assembled – and then the weather turned nasty. The tournament started in freezing temperatures, while subsequent rain meant a complicated series of shifting fields and kick-off times. Somehow, it all got done and Mexico, as usual, cleaned up in the younger age groups, providing all three champions at Under-12, Under-14 and Under-16 levels.

American teams dominated the Under-17 and Under-19 groups; England's Nottingham Forest won the Under-19 Super Group, although just how they did it will long be discussed.

They were comprehensively outplayed by Monterrey in the semi-final, only for the Mexicans to hit the woodwork five times.

Incredibly, it was the same story in the Final against Solar FC, a local team and the first American side to reach the Super Group Final. They played superbly but, just like Monterrey, saw five shots come back off the posts. Make that six – add the miss in the penalty shoot-out that gave Forest the title.

Final results

UNDER-12
Monterrey (Mexico) **1**
Alajuelense (Costa Rica) **0**

UNDER-14
U-14 National Team (Mexico) **1**
Tigres (Mexico) **0**

UNDER-16
Guadalajara (Mexico) **3**
Tigres (Mexico) **0**

UNDER-17
West Valley Samba (USA) **3**
Classic SC Blue (USA) **1**

UNDER-19
Palo Alto Pumas (USA) **4**
Wolfpack Blue (USA) **1**

UNDER-19 SUPER GROUP
Nottingham Forest (England) **1**
Solar FC (USA) **1**
(Forest 5-4 on pens)

The show must go on

USA

WHEN it comes to football, Americans just have to do things differently from everyone else. In the rest of the world everything grinds to a halt to make way for the World Cup. But not here. Major League Soccer just carries on.

That's the result of pro soccer being a summer sport in the USA. Shutting down the League, leaving baseball to dominate the media, would make no sense – continuity of games, and of television coverage, is vital, even if it means teams playing without their international players.

Calling it a day...Tab Ramos

As the new season got into its stride, the League managed to make an ass of itself by awarding a goal to a player who had not even touched the ball. This was not an error; it all complied with League regulations. The lucky recipient of the gift goal was Taylor Twellman, a young American who had earlier tried his luck in Germany but had become disillusioned and returned to the USA.

Playing for New England against Dallas Burn, Twellman was hovering in the Burn penalty area as team-mate Ted Chronopoulos took a corner. Burn keeper Matt Jordan came out and stretched over Twellman to punch the ball away but succeeded only in punching it into his own net.

Clearly a goalkeeper own goal, or, at a stretch, a goal to Chronopoulos. No, said the League, it goes to Twellman as he was "the nearest player applying pressure".

This will be the last season for Tab Ramos. The ball-playing midfielder came to the USA in 1977 as a 10-year-old immigrant from Uruguay, and by the age of 16 was already in the US Under-20 national team.

But just as he was preparing for a pro career – he was drafted by the New York Cosmos – the North American Soccer League went bust in 1984. Instead, Ramos went to college, then on to play in Spain.

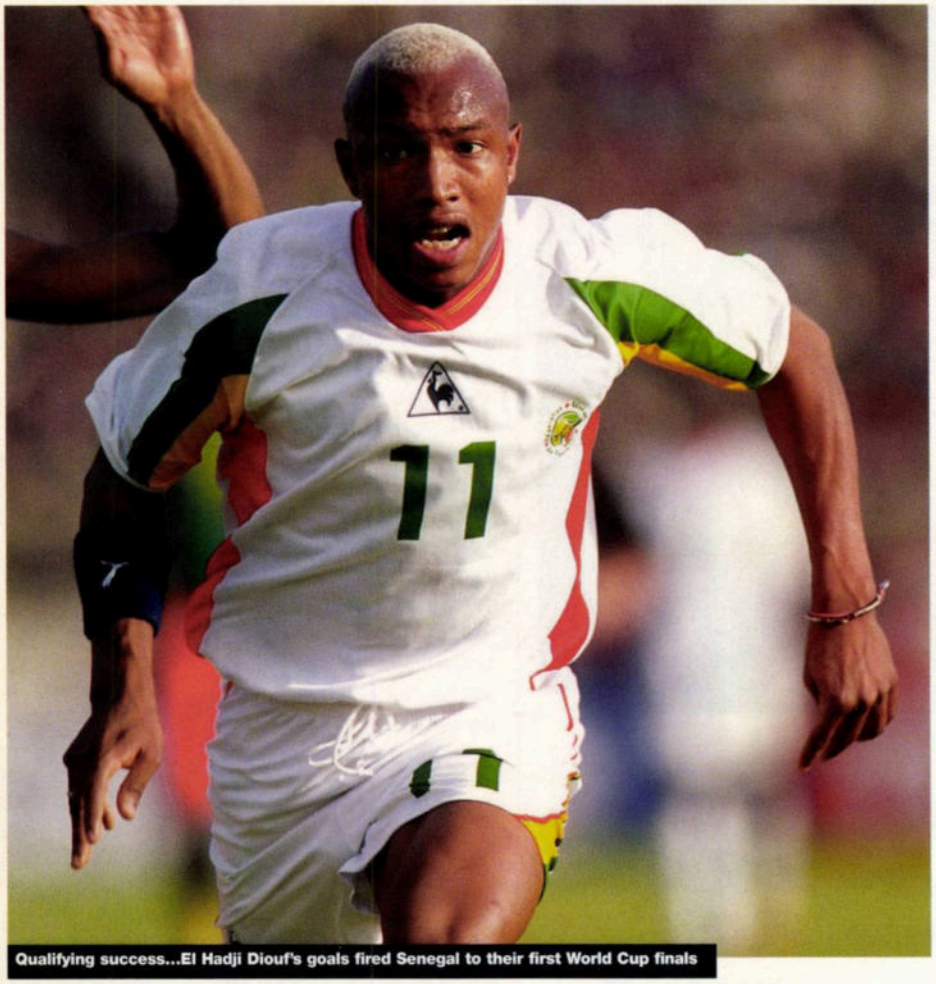
A veteran of three World Cups, Ramos' career was almost ended in the 1994 tournament when he was viciously elbowed by Brazil's Leonardo and suffered a serious head injury. Ramos ignored medical advice to give up the game and returned to play in Spain and Mexico.

When MLS was being formed, in 1996, it was desperately keen to bring back as many of America's top players as it could. Ramos was a key target, and he became the first player to sign up with the new League.

Paul Gardner

Diouf takes top award, Kuffour cries foul

Mark Gleeson on a controversial African Footballer of the Year ceremony



Qualifying success...El Hadji Diouf's goals fired Senegal to their first World Cup finals

SENEGALESE striker El Hadji Ousseynou Diouf was a surprisingly easy winner of the African Footballer of the Year award, prompting a torrent of abuse from the vanquished favourite, Samuel Osei Kuffour. The Bayern Munich and Ghana defender, a triple trophy winner in 2001, was most people's favourite to take the award, but Diouf proved the most popular in the poll of the members of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) technical and media committees.

The Ghanaian delegation walked out of the awards ceremony, held in Johannesburg, after Diouf was unveiled as the winner. He is the first player from Senegal to take the trophy, which dates back to 1970.

Last year Diouf scored eight goals for his country and was pivotal in their surprise qualification for the World Cup finals.

Kuffour later accused CAF president Issa Hayatou of switching the result, saying he had met Hayatou hours before the ceremony and been congratulated on winning the award.

Kuffour was even more bitter about the fact that Diouf had won, saying: "From what people tell me, he has never achieved anything so far in his career."

Except now, of course, after polling 93 votes to the 66 received by the Ghanaian, a winner of the Bundesliga, UEFA Champions League and World Club Cup last year.

"Looking back on those achievements, it is clear I deserved to win the award," said Kuffour.

Top 10 vote in full

1 **El Hadji Diouf** (Lens and Senegal).....**93 votes**
2 **Samuel Osei Kuffour** (Bayern Munich and Ghana).....**66**
3 **Samuel Eto'o** (Mallorca and Cameroon) **34**
4 **Mohamed Kallon** (Internazionale and Sierra Leone).....**28**
5 **Noureddine Naybet** (Deportivo La Coruna and Morocco) **26**
6 **Khalilou Fadiga** (Auxerre and Senegal).....**22**
7 **Ibrahima Bakayoko** (Marseille and Ivory Coast).....**16**
8 **Patrick Mboma** (Sunderland and Cameroon) **15**
9 **Hani Ramzy** (Kaiserslautern and Egypt) **12**
10 **Zoubeir Baya** (Besiktas and Tunisia) & **Pedro Mantorras** (Benfica and Angola).....**10**

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Costa do Sol join top-class field

MOZAMBIQUE'S Costa do Sol will be the only new face in the eight-team league format of the African Champions League, which kicks off in August. They beat Malagasy side Stade Olympic l'Emryne 3-2 on aggregate in the second round to win a place in the group stage, from which all competitors are guaranteed to win £140,000 each from television and marketing revenue. The winners of the Final, to be played in December, will earn £715,000.

The last eight includes six former winners of the tournament – current holders Al Ahly, fellow Egyptians Zamalek, ASEC Abidjan (Ivory Coast), Raja Casablanca (Morocco), Esperance (Tunisia) and TP Mazembe (DR Congo). It makes for arguably the most impressive field yet since the league format was introduced in 1997. Senegal's Jeanne d'Arc are the other remaining team.

The Egyptian sides were kept apart in the draw, Al Ahly going into the marginally easier Group A along with fellow seeds Raja of Morocco and the unfancied Jeanne d'Arc and TP Mazembe. Zamalek face seeded sides Esperance and ASEC Abidjan plus Costa do Sol in Group B.

The top two in each group go through to the semi-finals in November.

Mark Gleeson

COSAFA CASTLE CUP

Angola and Zimbabwe humbled

DEFENDING champions Angola were tumbled out of the Cosafa Castle Cup, the championship for the southern African region, after being beaten in Malawi in the quarter-finals.

The Angolans travelled with nine Portugal-based players for the match in Blantyre and a new coach in Brazilian Ismael Kurtz. But some woeful goalkeeping by Santa Clara's Fernando, including a miskick from a back pass which went into his own net, handed a 2-1 victory to the Malawians. Malawi also managed an own goal – bizarrely mirroring events in 1999 when the two teams also both put through their own nets when meeting in Blantyre. On that occasion, Angola won 2-1.

A fortnight earlier, Zimbabwe had been expected to coast to the last four in their quarter-final against Swaziland. Instead, last year's runners-up suffered the most embarrassing defeat of their 21-year international history. Brilliant second-half goals from Siza Dlamini and Sibusiso Dlamini put their tiny kingdom into the semi-finals, to be played in August.

In the other two quarter-finals, Zambia host Mozambique on July 6, while Madagascar travel to South Africa on July 20.

Mark Gleeson

Akwa banned for assault

Shamed...Akwa is sidelined for six months for attacking a linesman

ANGOLA captain Akwa has been suspended for six months by the Asian Football Confederation after attacking a linesman who disallowed his goal during an Asian Cup-winners Cup semi-final in March. Akwa's club, Al Saad of Qatar, lost 1-0 to Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia in the match in Doha. The suspension affects Qatari League and Asian club competition matches until September.

Elsewhere in **SOUTHERN AFRICA**, Patrick Phiri has been appointed **ZAMBIA'S** national coach. He replaces Dane Raoul Poulsen, who was a caretaker coach at the Nations Cup finals in Mali. Phiri will also continue as coach of Nkana FC in the Zambian Super League.

Santos won their first **SOUTH AFRICAN** Premier League title, while runners-up SuperSport United from Pretoria finished in their highest ever position.

Durban side AmaZulu were relegated as Hellenic from Cape Town managed to hold on to their Premier League status after appointing Bruce Grobbelaar as coach. However, the former Liverpool goalkeeper was replaced at the end of the season by Yugoslav Zoran Pesic.

FC Fortune, owned by Manchester United player Quinton Fortune, have signed a co-operation agreement with Belgium's Excelsior Mouscron.

South Africa won the first Cosafa women's championship, beating hosts Zimbabwe 2-1 in the Final in Harare.

In **NAMIBIA**, Liverpool from Okahandja won the League after a thrilling three-way finish. They pipped Chief Santos and Blue Waters by a point on the last day of the season.

CENTRAL AFRICA

Teenage **CAMEROONIAN** striker Patrice Kwedi is seeking to take Croatian nationality after starring for Dinamo Zagreb this season.

GABONESE club Mangasport have pulled out of the national League until the government refunds the team's expenses incurred in African club competition over the past two years. In Gabon, the government normally pays for its clubs' expenses in continental competition.

EAST AFRICA

TANZANIA will host the East and Central African Senior Challenge Cup in December, with 11 countries competing for the regional prize. Ethiopia, winners of last year's edition in Rwanda, have been drawn in Group B with Rwanda, Sudan and Zanzibar. Tanzania are in Group A with Burundi, Djibouti and Eritrea. Group C is made up of Kenya – last year's losing finalists – Uganda and Somalia.

ETHIOPIA began their preparations for the start of the 2004 African Nations Cup qualifiers in September by beating Tanzania 3-0 in Addis Abeba and drawing in Yemen. But they were beaten 3-1 by the Tanzanians in the return in Dar-es-Salaam.

St George won the Ethiopian League title, with Coffee FC finishing second. Insurance FC were the Cup winners.

Former French international Dominique Bathenay is the new national coach in the **SEYCHELLES**.

NORTH AFRICA

TUNISIAN glamour club Esperance won a fifth successive League title, seeing off the challenge from Etoile Sahel to secure the championship with one match left to play. Meanwhile, Club Africain coach Rene Exbrayat has resigned after two years citing fatigue and a wish to rejoin his family in France.

Mahmoud Al-Gohari, who stepped down as **EGYPT** coach after the Nations Cup in Mali, has been appointed national coach of Jordan.

MOROCCAN international defender Abdelilah Fahmi, who plays for Lille in France, has said he is no longer interested in playing for his country.

ALGERIAN club CA Batna fired Iraqi coach Ameur Djamil as they teetered on the brink of relegation.

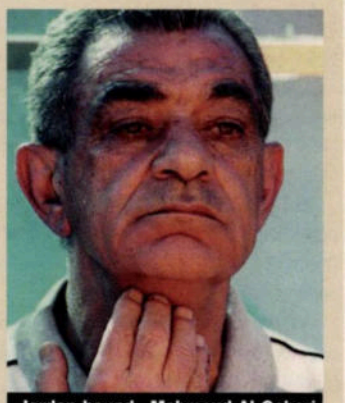
WEST AFRICA

Six police officers will go on trial for manslaughter following the stampede at Accra's stadium last year that cost 130 lives. They are accused of firing teargas into rioting crowds, causing the stampede at the end of the **GHANAIAN** League match between Hearts of Oak and Asante Kotoko. No trial date has yet been set.

Scotsman Ian Porterfield is the new coach of Asante Kotoko, who are through to the quarter-finals of the African Cup-winners Cup. He has taken over from German Ernst Middendorp, who has been widely tipped to take a job in South Africa.

As expected, **IVORY COAST** fired coach Lama Bamba in the wake of his failure to guide the national team through the first round of the African Nations Cup in Mali. Bamba's demise means 12 of the 16 coaches at the tournament have since lost their jobs.

Jeanne d'Arc retained the **SENEGALESE** championship, edging clear of second-placed Sonacos with two matches remaining.



Jordan-bound...Mahmoud Al-Gohari

NIGERIAN goalkeeper Ike Shorunmu, whose place at the World Cup finals has been under threat because he has not been playing club football, has signed for Swiss club Lucerne. The 32-year-old won clearance to leave Besiktas of Turkey after FIFA intervened in a contractual dispute.

Mark Gleeson

Golden night for China

Fan and company pick up three continental awards, writes Michael Church

Asia's finest...Fan Zhiyi became the first Chinese player to land the top prize

CHINESE international defender Fan Zhiyi was named Asia's Player of the Year for 2001, becoming the first player from his country to claim the accolade.

China celebrated further and unprecedented recognition when Du Wei, widely tipped to be Fan's long-term successor, carried off the Young Player of the Year award and the national side were named Team of the Year at the ceremony in Shanghai, Fan and Du's home city.

Fan, 32, currently on loan to Shanghai Zhongyuan from Dundee in Scotland, played a pivotal role in China's qualification for their first World Cup. "Winning this award is not just a realisation of a long dream, it is also an inspiration to perform better," he said.

However, China did not make a clean sweep as Saudi Arabia's Nasser Al-Johar won the other major award, the Coach of the Year, for taking the nation to their third successive World Cup.

JAPAN

New boys Vegalta on song

NEWLY promoted Vegalta Sendai won six of their opening seven First Stage games to lie a point behind leaders Yokohama F Marinos as the League broke off until after the World Cup.

The other promoted side, Kyoto Purple Sanga, started shakily with four straight defeats. However, their fortunes changed with a 5-1 crushing of fellow strugglers Tokyo Verdy 1969, and two further wins left them comfortably placed in mid-table at the break.

In the League Cup, the big teams were without key players because of World Cup commitments, but all eased through to the quarter-finals except Yokohama F Marinos, who with nine players missing, failed to qualify from their opening group by a point.

Mike Plastow & Yumiko Nagae

AUSTRALIA

Olympic champions against the odds

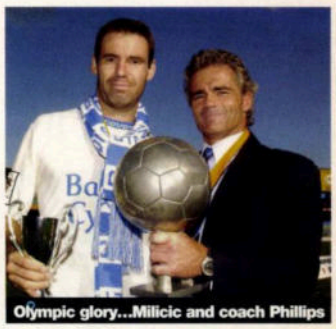
SYDNEY OLYMPIC SHARKS captured their second National League title with a 1-0 victory over hot favourites Perth Glory in the Grand Final.

Before a partisan 42,000 crowd at Glory's own Subiaco Oval ground and depleted by injuries, Olympic were given little chance against the team that finished 15 points ahead of them in the regular season. However, the Sydneysiders prevailed, largely thanks to subduing Glory strikers Damian Mori and Bobby Despotovski.

Ante Milicic, the NSL's most expensive player when he signed from Sydney United for £40,000, scored the winner after 48 minutes.

Victory tasted particularly sweet to coach Gary Phillips, who played in the first title-winning Olympic team, in 1990. He had never been in charge of a club side before being recruited by his old team last September. Five months before, Phillips was Tonga's national coach when they were humbled 22-0 by Australia in a World Cup qualifier.

Paul Moon



Olympic glory...Milicic and coach Phillips

NEW ZEALAND

Rovers stem North Shore tide

NAPIER CITY ROVERS secured top qualifying berth for the four-team National League play-offs despite being overtaken twice by North Shore United during the run-in. Rovers took pole position by defeating lowly Dunedin Technical 6-1 on the regular season's final day as United were being beaten 4-1 by Miramar Rangers.

Mick Waitt, a former Notts County and Lincoln City player, is the new national coach. He succeeds Ken Dugdale, who has taken charge of Norwegian Second Division side Vesteralen.

Paul Moon

Asian round-up

That's enough, says Al-Jaber

SAUDI ARABIA striker Sami Al-Jaber confirmed his intention to quit international football after playing in his third consecutive World Cup. Al-Jaber, who has won more than 100 caps, will concentrate on his career with club side Al Hilal. The Riyadh team followed up their triumph in the Asian Cup-winners Cup by winning the domestic League. Al-Jaber set up the first of Abdullah Jumaan's two goals in Al Hilal's 2-1 defeat of defending champions Al Ittihad in the championship play-off Final.

Former Saudi Arabia and Kuwait coach Milan Macala was fired by **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** side Al Nasr after he threw a chair at an assistant referee following the team's 2-1 defeat by Al Wasl in their penultimate League match. The Dubai side eventually finished eighth, 19 points behind champions Al Ain.

Former Switzerland, Internazionale and Udinese coach Roy Hodgson has signed a two-year contract to coach the UAE's national side.

More than 100 people were injured when rival fans clashed during the match between Dhaka Mohammadan and Rajshahi Abahani in the **BANGLADESH** National League at Rajshahi. Mohammadan won 3-2 to join holders Dhaka Abahani, Chittagong Abahani and Sylhet Chaturango in the Super Four final round.

Subrata Bhattacharya guided Mohun Bagan to an **INDIAN** League and Cup double, the first in the six-year history of the National League.

Michael Church & Azam Mahmood

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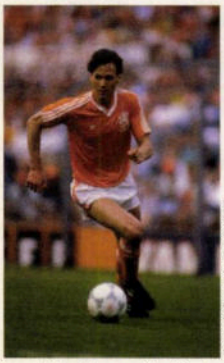
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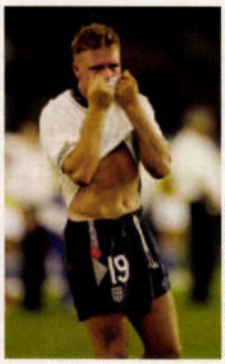
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Brian Glanville's LAST WORD

'The manager's F-word outburst was prompted as much by his realisation that he had created the player's problems as by anything written in the press'

Ferguson must take blame over Veron

IF ALEX FERGUSON'S intention was to give a boost to Michael Crick's demolition job on the Manchester United manager in his recently-published biography, he could not have planned it better. Ferguson greeted the journalists who turned up for his so-called press conference one Sunday in May to a volley of four-letter abuse over the matter of Juan Sebastian Veron.

Qui s'excuse s'accuse, as Ferguson's eccentric goalkeeper Fabien Barthez might tell him – who excuses himself accuses himself. For Ferguson, when it came to Veron, could hardly have been on shakier ground.

It was surely not a question of the press at large abusing Veron, but of Ferguson himself having made such inept use of him, and probably being wrong to pay that massive £28 million in the first place.

I bow to none in my huge admiration for this greatly gifted, versatile playmaker, whose performance for Argentina against Wales in Cardiff in February impressed me so much. He also had an exemplary game for United at home to Deportivo La Coruna in the Champions League and was surely the best and most decisive player on the field. It was surely a great deal more than coincidence that on each occasion, he should be able to play in his proper, central midfield position, running things, rather than stuck out on the wing or played just behind the front runners as Ferguson has so bizarrely made him do.

I suggest that Ferguson's F-word outburst was prompted as much by his own inner realisation that he had created Veron's problems as by anything written in the newspapers.

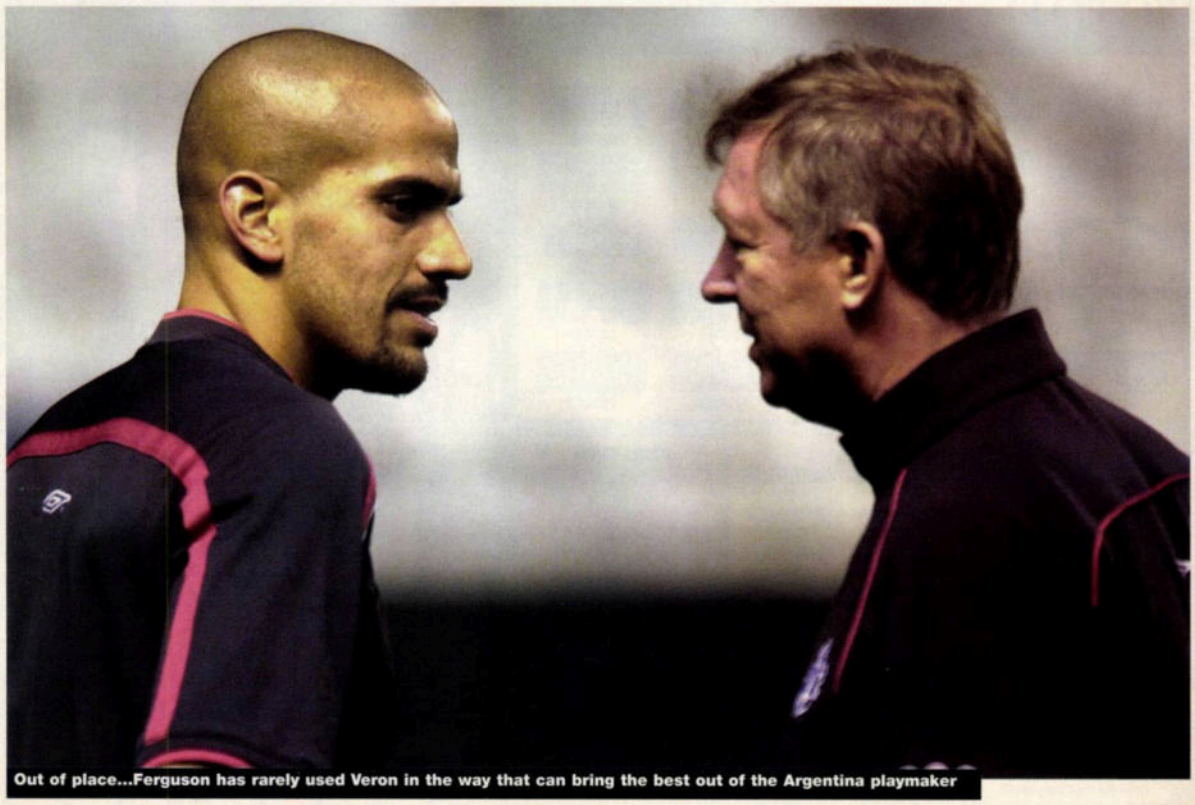
As for the biography, it is a devastating warts-and-all job. Crick implicitly accuses Ferguson of being a greedy bully, who all too often fails to practise what he preaches. Up to a point, Lord Copper. It was the French revolutionary Saint Just who said: "You cannot govern without blood on your hands", and it has never been so hard to be a manager in these days of millionaire players and their insistent agents.

That Ferguson has managed to maintain any kind of hegemony over his wealthy team is surely remarkable. Brian Clough, in a difficult but less demanding age, was himself an authoritarian figure. How distant seem the days of Arsenal's Herbert Chapman, the beloved father figure whose word to his players was law.

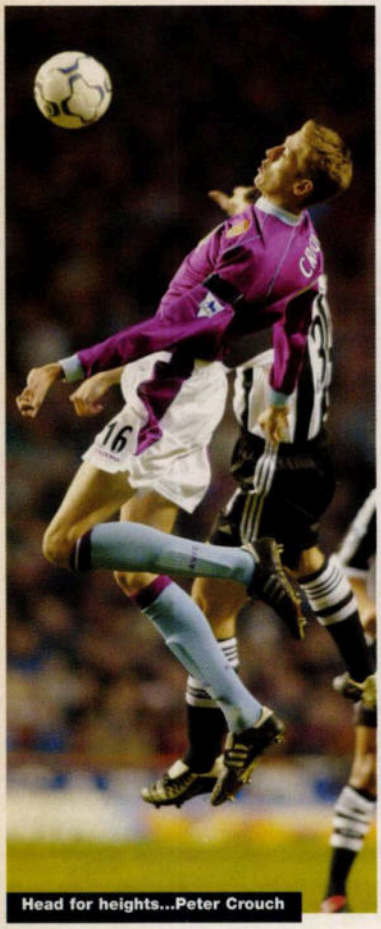
It also seemed to me unfair to emphasise, as Crick has done, the more relaxed and sympathetic relationship between the players and Brian Kidd when he was coach at United. The eternal duopoly of coach and manager is a well-known phenomenon. It's the manager who must take the decisions and the flak, and the coach who can go on being Mr Nice Guy; the man the players so often want when the manager leaves.

Ferguson was certainly harsh beyond the call of duty about Kidd in his autobiography but he wasn't wrong when he opined that Kidd was not a natural manager. That was proved both at Preston and Blackburn. I also feel it unfair, as Crick has suggested, to believe that Ferguson's criticisms had anything crucial to do with the fact that Kidd lost his second managerial job.

Even so, Fergie has surely been wrong to sell Jaap Stam and acquire Laurent Blanc, though there was a brief improvement.



Out of place...Ferguson has rarely used Veron in the way that can bring the best out of the Argentina playmaker



Head for heights...Peter Crouch

Crouch no slouch

ASTON VILLA centre-forward Peter Crouch, standing 6ft 6in, might on the surface seem just another of the big, bullish target men so dear to manager Graham Taylor in his days at Watford; but not a bit of it. As we saw in Villa's last League game of the season, Crouch is predictably dangerous in the air, but he also, especially for so tall a man, has a fine pair of feet; and a quick football brain for using the ball when it comes to him.

He was living round the corner when Gerry Francis spotted him and brought him to QPR, taking him to Tottenham when he himself moved there. But Spurs were blind to Crouch's promise and let Francis take him back again to Loftus Road.

When QPR so badly needed money, it was Portsmouth who had the enterprise to sign the forward, making a deserved packet when, as their Player of the Year, they sold him on to Villa. Strikers abound at Crouch's new club, to the extent that £15million-worth of talent in the shape of Colombia's Juan Pablo Angel and Croatia's Bosko Balaban were mere supporting cast by the end of the season. Balaban, in fact, was never even on the bench.

Blatter's bad but not a patch on Havelange

SEPP BLATTER, ferociously attacked in a recent Chelsea match programme by chairman Ken Bates – "Let us hope that it is the last World Cup under the rotten, corrupt, crooked reign of Blatter...even the Monkey from Hartlepool would be an improvement" – must look enviously back at the appalling 24-year regime of his predecessor, Joao Havelange.

Read David Yallop's excoriating book, *How They Sold The Game*, if you want chapter and horrid verse on what the Brazilian got away with for so long. By comparison, Blatter, for all his excesses and finaglings, is almost a minor sinner.

And how did Havelange get away with it? Why, as we know, by having the greedy docile sycophants of the FIFA countries squared. Not the British. On the whole, with the demise of Stanley Rous – conned out of the presidency by Havelange – they were just too dim and stupid to try to do anything about it. Or if they were like Ulster's Harry Cavan, whose eulogy of Havelange on his 75th birthday was emetic, they were just too happy swanning round the world for nothing when they should have been at home in their gardens.

One major difference between Havelange and Blatter in their presidencies was that where Blatter has a brave and honest general secretary of FIFA in Michel Zen-Ruffinen – shamefully sidelined – Havelange had...Blatter. True, the two of them did fall out for a time, but they made it up eventually as you might have expected being emphatically two of a kind.

When Blatter proclaimed that, despite all the dirt hitting the fan, he would still be re-elected president, he had, alas, to be taken seriously. I must repeat that under the current structure whereby every FIFA country's vote is the same as any other's – Fiji's as good as France's, Liberia's as good as England's – a conniving president can manipulate enough votes for himself to stay in office.

Old comrades...Blatter (left) was Havelange's second in command

Hubner shows life can begin at 30

Still going strong...Dario Hubner

I KNOW who my European Player of the Season would be: Dario Hubner of Piacenza. If Milan do take him on, as seemed possible at the end of the Italian season, what a just reward it would be for a 35-year-old goalscorer *par excellence* who has never had a major club nor wanted one.

Hubner, astonishingly, finished joint top of the Serie A scorers with 24 goals, the same number as the infinitely more celebrated, vastly richer David Trezeguet of Juventus. True, none of Trezeguet's goals came from penalties, but look at the cornucopia of talent that surrounded him, then at the modest players with whom Hubner played at little Piacenza.

Hubner's career is a glorious corrective to these days of cosseted, grotesquely over-rewarded younger professionals, who were spotted and seized by the great clubs in boyhood, peaked early, and never looked back. By contrast, Hubner never even kicked a ball in Serie A until he was 30; then didn't he kick it well?

In his first League game for modest Brescia, in 1997-98, he put his team 2-0 ahead against Inter at San Siro. The Milan side and the job of their coach, Gigi Simoni, were saved only by two spectacular goals from substitute Alvaro Recoba.

The Uruguayan was loaned to Venezia the season after – where, by the way, his goals torpedoed Inter when they came to play by the lagoon. Recoba, in time, became the highest-paid player in Serie A.

As for Hubner, he laboured away for years in the lower reaches of Italian football – Pievigina in the inter-regional league, Pergocrema and Fano in C2, five goalscoring seasons with Cesena in B. He shows life for a footballer can indeed begin at 30 and that there is no need to abandon hope if you are not discovered as a teenager or even younger.

From the archives...

June 1962

FORTY years ago, *World Soccer* was focused on the World Cup in Chile, and our correspondents proved to be more than able at predicting the outcome.

Eric Batty, the author of the main preview article in the issue, said eventual winners Brazil were justified in being pre-tournament favourites. He wrote: "Nothing can shake me from the view that when Sir Stanley Rous presents the Jules Rimet trophy to the winning captain on June 17, the hands that gratefully receive it will be those of a Brazilian."

Kenneth Wolstenholme, part of the BBC commentary team travelling to Chile and a regular *World Soccer* correspondent, was also showing his prescient powers. "Have I any second thoughts on my forecast published last month [Brazil to beat Czechoslovakia in the Final]?" he wrote. "Not really. I am no more despondent about them, no more hopeful."

However, Wolstenholme was despondent about the fact that the only television coverage of the finals would be from film. "If only those satellites had gone up a few years previously!" he exclaimed.

One of the eventual finalists, Czechoslovakia's Josef Masopust, was profiled by Batty under the headline 'One of the modern masters'. "All told, Masopust has represented Czechoslovakia in 42 full internationals," wrote Batty. "And for the future? First he would like to take his personal record up to the half century, and (with his tongue in his cheek) 'to play in the World Cup Final against Brazil'."

The future was not so rosy for Spain. Roger Macdonald, attempting to explain the "enigma" of the Spanish national team, suggested that "European club competitions come first, the Spanish League and Cup second, international matches a long way behind third." Even at this late stage before the Chile finals, he noted, "only four players – Gento, Del Sol, Di Stefano and Santamaria – are sure of their places, and not one of them was really consistent during 1961." Sure enough, the Spanish finished bottom of their group in South America.

On the domestic League front, neither of the sides featured on the cover – Juventus and Internazionale – could prevent Milan from winning the Serie A title; in England, Ipswich were champions for the first time. Stuart Shaw described them as "workmanlike with no outstanding players. Somewhat harshly they have been described as the poorest side to have won the First Division."

Reviewing the English season in general, Shaw noted attendances had fallen steeply towards the end, when only those clubs interested in promotion and relegation kept their support. "What is the answer?" he asked. "I think the Greeks have it, with three points for a win, two for a draw and one for a defeat. I can see the programme notes now: 'We lost 7-0 but came back with a well-deserved point!'"

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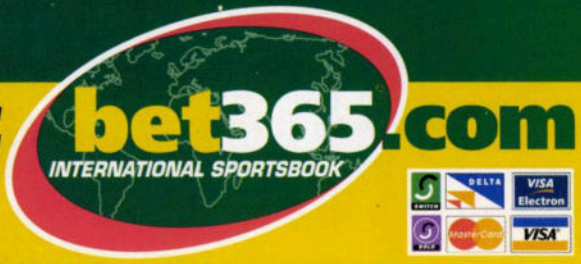

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